

Rockets shoot down peace monitors

Yugoslav MiG kills five in EC helicopter

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIVE European Community observers in Yugoslavia were killed yesterday when their helicopter was shot down over Croatia. The four Italians and a Frenchman died instantly when federal MiG21 jets fired a series of rockets at the aircraft.

The attack provoked widespread condemnation throughout the EC and could jeopardise a United Nations plan to send a peacekeeping force of 10,000 troops to Croatia. The incident took place on the fifth day of an otherwise successful ceasefire brokered by Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy, between the Croatian national guard and the Serb-led Yugoslav army.

A second helicopter carrying four more observers made



an emergency landing near the village of Madzarevo, 12 miles south of Varazdin. Three diplomats on board were slightly injured. Hans Klint, a Belgian envoy who was unhurt, said that the attacking planes were clearly identifiable as Yugoslav federal army jets.

The Yugoslav federal defence ministry admitted last night that one of its aircraft had shot down a helicopter and damaged a second. It expressed deep regret about the "unwanted and tragic event". It said an urgent enquiry would be carried out and that legal measures would be taken against those responsible.

The incident, which took place near Novi Marof, 30 miles north of Zagreb, happened just hours before the UN Security Council was due to meet to sanction the sending of 50 peacekeeping troops to the region.

The four Italians were named as Lieutenant-Colonel Enzo Venturini, Sergeant-Major Mario Maza, Floriano Silvani and Natale Ranzani. The Frenchman was not named last night.

Alexander Popovic, aged 17, watched the attack. "I saw the plane fire on the helicopter. One helicopter was hit, the second one veered to the right to escape. I got to the wreckage of the first one. I saw three bodies in the helicopter and two more about 100 and 150 yards away."

A postal worker in Madzarevo also witnessed the incident. "I saw two army planes flying high overhead," said Vladimir Milak, aged 54. "I then saw the two helicopters."

Then, one plane dropped from a great height and fired four rockets, one after another. The fourth hit. I saw an explosion, flames, and then smoke," he added. "Then it dropped."

Croatian television showed pictures of the wreckage, strewn over a quarter of a mile, and the body of one of the monitors lying in a field. A white jacket, worn by EC observers, could be seen hanging from a tree.

The two helicopters were clearly marked as Community aircraft and had just entered Croatian airspace from the Hungarian border. Their flight, from Belgrade to Zagreb, had been announced to the federal authorities.

A Community investigation team left Zagreb for the scene of the shooting last night, and an EC source said that the Yugoslav peace conference due to take place in Brussels tomorrow would go ahead despite the incident.

Italy asked that a meeting of EC foreign ministers, due to take place on Friday, should be held as soon as possible. Gianni De Michelis, the foreign minister, said that the shooting was "a cowardly act of aggression against neutral observers".

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, said that the incident was inadmissible and deplorable. "You simply cannot treat a helicopter carrying the insignia of the European Community on a mission of peace as a belligerent aircraft."

Lord Carrington, the EC peace envoy, said it was a "tragic incident" but he hoped it would not scupper peace hopes. João de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese foreign minister whose country now holds the EC presidency, praised the "courage, determination and honesty" of the EC.

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Masked men fire at Tbilisi protesters

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

THE new Georgian regime was struggling to assert its authority yesterday when two demonstrations loyal to the deposed president Zviad Gamsakhurdia were wounded by gunshots and shooting incidents were reported all over the republic.

The violent dispersal by the new government forces of a march through the war-ravaged capital boded ill for the efforts of the ruling military council to restore stability, civilian rule and international credibility.

The pro-Gamsakhurdia rally started at Tbilisi railway station, where about 2,000 supporters of the nationalist leader who fled his besieged parliament on Monday morning gathered and chanted slogans.

More protesters joined the rally as it marched around the city centre for over two hours. Witnesses said that masked men fired automatic

weapons straight at the protesters, apparently without warning. There was panic and at least two people were seriously injured.

Officials of the new regime — a coalition of nationalists and former aides of the fugitive president — said that their forces had been ordered to use non-lethal weapons and smoke bombs to disperse the rally.

Earlier, Jaba Ioseliani, mastermind of the rebellion that overthrew Mr Gamsakhurdia, pledged to crush any resistance by loyalists in all other parts of the Black Sea republic. Asked about reports of violent acts of resistance in western Georgia, he said: "There is shooting not only in the west but also in Tbilisi as well. We are not out to arrest."

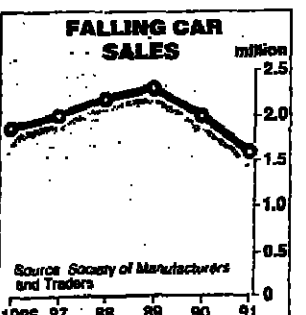
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New-car tax cut has manifold advantages

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, appears ready to scrap the special 10 per cent tax on new cars in an effort to kick-start sales in Britain's depressed motor industry.

Abolishing the tax could reduce the cost of an average family saloon by £1,000 and would be the single biggest move in helping to revive car sales after the industry's worst slump last year. The Treasury would lose about £1.5 billion in revenue by abolishing the tax, but industry leaders believe that Mr Lamont has decided that the financial toll of lost sales over the past two years has proved



greater. Sales have slumped by more than 30 per cent since 1989, a loss to car manufacturers of 700,000 cars worth about £5.5 billion at showroom prices.

The government has resisted the appeals of the motor industry to remove the special car tax, the only special

sales tax of its kind imposed in Britain. Car industry leaders now believe, however, that Mr Lamont seems ready to phase it out as evidence mounts of the damage inflicted on the industry.

Just how effective scrapping the tax would be is shown by a four-door Nissan Primera L, built at Washington, Tyne and Wear, which goes into showrooms with a retail price of £8,217. Vat, however, adds £1,557 and special car tax a further £684, taking the final "on the road" price to £10,460.

It is believed that the abolition could be linked to a package of measures which would provide the government with a "green bonus" to attract wide public support.

New cars are more environmentally friendly and economical. Higher sales would therefore encourage the introduction of "greener" cars much quicker than at present rates. Mr Lamont is believed to be attracted to the idea of raising duty on petrol to recoup some of the lost income from special car tax, possibly adding 10p to 20p to a gallon.

A second push to act could also come from the enquiry into car pricing policies from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which is expected to show that car prices in Britain are up to 30 per cent higher than in the rest of Europe.

Sir Hal Miller, chief executive of the Society of Motor

Manufacturers and Traders, said yesterday: "We must get rid of the special car tax and we must open up a wider environmental front. The industry is going through the toughest time anyone can remember and it needs help from the government."

The government also faces the prospect of new manufacturing capacity coming on stream at three new Japanese companies operating in Britain with sales at their lowest for a decade. By the end of this year, Nissan, Honda and Toyota will all be producing from UK-based factories and depending on a strong domestic market.

Sales figures, page 21
Comment, page 23

Lady Helen to marry London art dealer

BY ALAN HAMILTON

LADY Helen Windsor, aged 27, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, is to marry Tim Taylor, aged 28, an art dealer and son of a Royal Navy commander. The couple met through their mutual interest in art. Lady Helen is a director of the West End gallery Karsten Schubert, while Mr Taylor works at the Leslie Waddington gallery in Mayfair.

They first met in the early 1980s and have known each other well for 2½ years. Like all close relatives of the monarch, Lady Helen had to seek the Queen's permission to marry. An announcement from York House, the Kent's official residence, said yesterday that the Queen had "gladly given her consent".

Mr Taylor was educated at a small public school at Cobham, Surrey, and lives in Fulham, west London. Lady Helen lives in Earl's Court.

Lady Helen is 21st in line to the throne; her elder brother George, Earl of St Andrews, disqualified himself from the succession when he married a Roman Catholic, Sylvia Tomassell, in 1988.

One of the early intakes of girl sixth-formers at Gordonstoun, Lady Helen was formerly a regular star of the gossip columns. She earned the nickname "Melons" from being the first member of the royal family to be photographed sunbathing topless.

Court Circular, page 14

Major rebukes the 'dismal Johnnies' over economy

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

THE prime minister last night rebuked the "dismal Johnnies" spreading gloom and doom about the economy and predicted that Britain would lead the Western world out of the recession.

Pointing to lower inflation and interest rates and encouraging signs on unemployment and retail sales, John Major said that pessimism about the economy had been overcome. In remarks aimed as much at faint-hearted Tories as his backbenchers as at his critics, he said: "If you listen to some of the dismal Johnnies you might never realise what has been achieved in the last year."

Mr Major's confident message was delivered in a speech to businessmen in Newcastle upon Tyne last night after a day on the campaign trail and after renewed angry exchanges between the

two main parties over Conservative allegations about Labour's tax plans.

It also came after an all-day meeting of the shadow cabinet in London which endorsed a six-point plan for giving the economy an immediate lift and further measures for long-term recovery to be unveiled today.

Chris Patten claimed yesterday that Labour's tax plans would wreck the economic recovery. The Tory chairman echoed Michael Heseltine's weekend warning that Labour's proposals would send the housing market into a nosedive by forcing the better off to sell their homes. John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said the real problem in the housing market was the people at the bottom being put on the streets now. He maintained that if money from people from higher incomes was redistributed in favour of pensioners and those eligible for child benefit economic demand would be boosted.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, pointed out that the only year of strong growth was a year when the top tax rate was 60 per cent. He also argued that since the top rate had been reduced to the present level there had been a further downturn in investment in manufacturing. Labour's plans for short-term recovery include tax incentives for investment by manufacturing industry and small firms.

Earlier, Mr Major insisted

that if Labour stuck to its spending promises it would put up the basic rate of income tax by 10p in the pound in the lifetime of a Parliament. Mr Kinnock, however, maintained that Mr Major and Mr Lamont were telling "whoppers".

Election run-up, page 2
How to sink Labour, page 12

TODAY IN THE TIMES

IN THE RACE



Imelda Marcos yesterday announced her intention of running in the Philippines presidential elections. "There is a need," she said, "for someone to help our people in misery." **Page 8**

WAY AHEAD



A few well-timed art commissions have transformed Sweden's transport systems and the dreary British would do well to follow in Stockholm's tracks. Richard Morrison argues **Page 10**

FLOATER



Nicholas Ridley, meanwhile, advocates following Finland's example: Britain, he says, should leave the ERM before it strangles our industry **Page 12**



GARGLING WITH TCP

The effective way to fight sore throats.



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Brooke going soft on IRA in Ulster, bishop says

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A BISHOP accused the government of going "soft" on the IRA in Northern Ireland yesterday as criticism of security policy continued after two van bombs wrecked offices in Belfast on Sunday and Monday.

Samuel Poyntz, Church of Ireland bishop of Down and Connor, visiting St George's Church which was damaged by the bombs on Monday, said that security policy had failed. "I speak as an ordinary citizen and one who would like to see a much greater blanket around this city if it is to be protected," he said.

He had noticed a decline in security since Christmas. He said the withdrawal of extra troops sent to the Province before Christmas meant the

government must face some condemnation. "Obviously when they [the government] go soft on this or go quiet for some time, it allows the IRA to move in."

His comments came amid speculation that the army may again deploy extra troops from the mainland to try to prevent further IRA bombings.

In the past 14 months the army has sent extra battalions to Northern Ireland at least four times, usually in response to an upsurge in violence but sometimes for other specific military operations.

These short-term deployments have little impact, are expensive and seem designed mainly for their public relations value.

The army has 10,500 troops in the Province supporting the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Senior officers could use many more to combat the IRA which the army said recently was operating better than ever.

Security was discussed at Stormont in a meeting between the Unionist leaders, Jim Molyneux and Ian Paisley, and Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary. The Unionists emerged calling for greater use of undercover units and the UDR in Belfast.

The leaders also discussed prospects for political talks and said much progress had been made. They gave the impression that they were ready again to open talks with the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

A huge search yesterday failed to trap what is believed to have been an IRA gang which stole nearly £2 million in a raid on the Allied Irish Banks regional depot at Waterford, southeast Ireland on Monday.

The gang bypassed a modern alarm system and drilled through the roof of the depot. They broke into the offices and held up staff and a detective at gunpoint.

A getaway van, containing the empty bank safe, was later found at an isolated farm.

Sean Barrett, justice spokesman for the main opposition party, Fine Gael, criticised lax security at depots like Waterford which he said were obvious targets for the IRA.

"If it was the IRA, the issue here is wider than the crime of armed robbery," Mr Barrett said. "The money will be used to finance a murder campaign on these islands."



Battle stations: John Major, following established political tradition, atop a tank at Vickers Defence Systems in Newcastle upon Tyne yesterday. Earlier practitioners of tank-top tactics have been Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock, both photographed while visiting British troops in West Germany in 1986

Election run-up: parties set campaign courses

Tory summit to hammer out tone of manifesto

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister will chair a two-day Downing Street summit meeting on the election manifesto tomorrow, against the background of a cabinet debate over how radical the Conservatives should be in fashioning their appeal for a fourth consecutive term in power.

One insider said yesterday that divisions were opening up between the consolidators and radicals over the dominant theme of the manifesto. Chris Patten, the party chairman, was said to favour an "austere" manifesto, emphasising that the Tories are, in particular, John Major were the party to trust. But

others, led by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, were said to be pressing for a more Thatcherite programme, short of some of the excesses of the 1980s.

The source said that the Conservative assault on Labour's tax proposals, if successful, would strengthen the hand of those ministers pressing Mr Major to answer criticism that there was little to choose between the two main parties. One idea being floated is that the government should commit itself to a specific inflation target, but this is likely to be resisted as giving a hostage to fortune.

Another insider saw the internal Tory arguments over

taxation as the dividing line between the two camps. Ministers accept that, with no time to get a full finance bill through Parliament, the Budget will become a dry run for much of the manifesto. The right is arguing for a cut in the basic rate of tax to put Labour on the defensive. Mr Kinnock is committed to restoring any Budget tax cuts, and right-wing Tories believe he would not relish campaigning on a pledge to raise taxes for all.

However, some ministers are urging caution, believing that a penny off income tax so near an election would look like a bribe and would undermine Conservative efforts to present themselves as defenders of the public services. Although the Chancellor and his advisers will gather at Chevening this weekend to plot Budget strategy, a final decision about a tax cut will depend on the economic outlook nearer the time.

Other insiders played down the extent of the ideological differences and insisted that there was widespread acceptance that the Tories could not stand pat on their record. One source predicted that the final document would strike a balance between the blandness of the 1983 programme and the high-risk strategy adopted in 1987.

Mr Major will be joined by Mr Patten, Sarah Hogg, head of the Downing Street policy unit, Andrew Lansley, the head of the Conservative Central Office research department, and Judith Chaplin, his political secretary, for the two days of meetings. They will examine ways of honing the citizen's charter exercise into a vote-winning package and will have to decide the timing of policy announcements: whether to hold ideas back for the manifesto or to unveil them before the election.

Major goes for time-honoured ride into battle

John Major's tour of the North began with a popular pastime for Tory leaders, writes Jamie Dettmer

Indicate to people what that would mean over a parliament in terms of increased expenditure," he said. "If anyone thinks it is unlikely that they would tax up to 35p in the pound, I invite them to remember what the standard rate of tax was under the last Labour government: 35p in the pound."

Most of Mr Major's conversations with Vickers workers were inaudible to the press corps, a mistake Mrs Thatcher would not have made. He also fell into the trap of being photographed peering into a big hole, a dream for a satirist wondering where the economy went.

It is a year since Mr Major last rode on a Challenger tank. That was under the Saudi Arabian sun as British forces geared up for Operation Desert Storm. Obligingly, Vickers yesterday provided a Challenger II in the same sand camouflage.

Next, the prime minister opened a British Airways sales centre in Newcastle. The sound bite here was about jobs returning to Tyneside.

No electioneering day should lack a walkabout. Whitley Bay, a Tory stronghold in the marginal Conservative seat of Tynemouth, was the stage. Mr Major was well received near the New Coliseum bingo club, not surprisingly as the local faithful had been tipped off and were out in force. Many of the crowd wished the prime minister good luck in the election. "Thank you," Mr Major replied, "but it might not be for some time yet."

Day at the office ends on a jury

Office workers sitting at their desks in a Whitehall ministry yesterday were suddenly confronted by court officials sent out by a judge from their neighbouring court to "press gang" members of the public into jury service.

The rare order by the judge to "pray a trial", under the Juries Act 1974, was made because of a dire shortage of jurors at some London crown courts this week after the Christmas break.

Sid Courtney, chief clerk at the Middlesex Guildhall crown court in Parliament Square, said that he needed 100 to 120 jurors and only 58 had turned up, either because they had not received the summons, or because they had ignored it.

"We needed about 11 more jurors to complete two panels. We shall do the same tomorrow if necessary. You can either rope off the street and approach people, or go into the first office you come to. As this is a tourist area, we chose the latter."

His officials turned up at the Department of Trade and Industry where they found the necessary 11 takers. The jurors have a right to refuse, but only for the same reasons that they would be able to cite on receipt of a summons.

Mr Courtney said that jurors who did not appear to have a valid reason for not appearing in court could be fined up to £400.

Trying systems, page 12

Watson hope

Michael Watson, the boxer, who has spent the past three months in the neurosurgical unit of St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London, after his world title fight with Chris Eubank, has been shown a video of the contest in the hope of stimulating his recovery. Mr Watson is making slow progress and yesterday was reported to have recovered slight use of his right hand and leg.

Acid gas leak

The Shell oil refinery at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire, one of the largest chemical sites in Europe, was evacuated last night after a leak of sulphuric acid fumes. The gas had seeped from a tank which was pressurised with propane gas. A spokesman for Cheshire police said: "It was a gas leak which was contained and confined to the site. No one was hurt."

Fire boy poorly

Craig Fletcher, aged three, was "very poorly" in hospital after his six-year-old twin sisters, Jemma and Natasha Fletcher, died in a fire at The Haven women's refuge, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. The fire, which started in a kitchen, had caused the blaze.

CORRECTION

In New Year honours list (December 31) the following on the navy list were incorrectly recorded as having been awarded the CBE rather than the OBE: Surg Cdr C.J. Davis; Cdr P.R. Gage; at Capt P.J. King; at Capt M.J. Larnuth; Cdr M.C. Nixon; Cdr A.M. Poulter; Cdr B.E. Stead; Cdr K. Thomas; Cdr D.G. Widgery; Cdr D.P. Wilson.

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At your service ... a Labour team ready to serve

IF YOU ache to be rude to Neil Kinnock's face without getting walloped back, now might be your chance. As electioneering begins Mr Kinnock's face is glued in a grin for the cameramen who precede him everywhere, clicking their shutters as they walk backwards. Every moment is a photo opportunity. Any photo might turn up in tomorrow's newspapers. Mr Kinnock is taking no chances.

As passing tourists in Kensington High Street, south-west London, stared at the Labour leader through the windows of the Royal Garden Hotel, where the shadow cabinet was meeting yesterday to hone its election strategy, they must have wondered what was so funny. Were London hotel lobbies awfully amusing? Did the sofas all have whoopee cushions? Were the bellboys telling dirty jokes?

Who cares? Tourists can't vote.

Nothing was too much trouble for Labour's leaders yesterday. Photographers and television crews could

The prospect of an election has brought a smile to the face of the Labour leadership. Joe Joseph reports

order them out for photocalls and interviews as though they were available on room service.

"I'll have a Gordon Brown, a Becken and a small Tony Blair, please."

"Certainly, sir," an eager Labour lackey would reply. "They'll be right with you. Would you care for a Hattersley on the side?"

"Couldn't possibly manage, thanks all the same."

The chosen emerged from the Sandringham Suite like schoolchildren who had received diligently for a viva voce. They could recite speeches by heart and could repeat them verbatim to any camera crew that pointed a spotlight at them.

"It now demands government action," Gordon Brown said. "What is abso-



Robin Cook and John Prescott at the meeting

lutely clear is... I want Britain to be the industrial leader in Europe... what is absolutely important now is... Roll 'em... "It now demands government action..." Gordon Brown said. "What is absolutely clear is... I want Britain to be the industrial leader in Europe... what is absolutely important now is... Roll 'em... "It now demands government action..." A brief shadow cabinet

walkabout was promised to impatient photographers during the lunch break. The morning session was due to adjourn at 12.45pm, but at 1pm they were still in there, possibly still listening to Mr Kinnock announcing that the meeting would now break for lunch, a midday meal, a snack in the Balmoral Suite, a little something to sustain us through the afternoon. As he finally crossed the

hotel lobby bound for a photo opportunity on the front steps, Mr Kinnock carried on giggling for the photographers as he asked ITN and Channel 4 journalists who had just had their Volvo estates broken into in the hotel car park. "Had yer cars knocked off? Ooh, nasty?" Their cameras, of course, were not in the cars, so the grin stayed glued.

After lunch the shadow cabinet returned to the suite to watch Labour's new party political broadcast. Chuckling was heard through the door, as if they were watching a home movie and laughing whenever one of them appeared on screen. Reporters were promised a preview too, but a plug came unstuck when the video machine was moved into the lobby. An hour later, the party that is ready to repair Britain, was still unable to repair the video machine. Sadly, we left without seeing the broadcast. You can watch it tonight on television. Who knows, you may well find something to laugh about as well.

Safeguards 'needed to protect children'

Law to be tightened on foreign adoption

By JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

Couples who bypass social workers when adopting foreign children would be guilty of a criminal offence under legal changes being considered by the government.

Tougher regulation of overseas adoption is necessary to prevent children being brought into Britain by the back door, the Department of Health said in a discussion document published yesterday.

New legal safeguards, which may include the creation of a criminal offence, are necessary to protect the children and to ensure that couples who wish to adopt are properly prepared.

"We must make the legis-

mate path to inter-country adoption more widely understood but we must also take firmer action on those who try to beat the system," Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said.

About 300 overseas children are adopted by British couples each year, out of 18,000 to 22,000 such adoptions worldwide. The demand has been fuelled by the decline in babies under one year old available for adoption in Western countries as attitudes to contraception, abortion and single parenthood have changed.

Opinions are divided on the benefits. Receiving coun-

tries see it as a humanitarian measure and a solution to the problem of childlessness but sending countries believe the poverty of families is being exploited to satisfy a growing demand from childless couples in the West.

The discussion document, the first in a series on reform of adoption law, says that inter-country adoption should be seen as "a last resort rather than a first resort" and should only be considered where a child cannot be cared for properly in his own country. Prospective parents should be assessed exactly as they would be for a domestic adoption and all arrangements handled by officially authorised bodies in both countries.

"Would-be parents have felt frustrated by the lack of help from local authorities," Mrs Bottomley said, "but there have been substantial improvements in the last 18 months." Some couples wanted instant approval but that was not possible.

Mrs Bottomley said it was hoped that International Social Services, an independent body linking social services in different countries, would establish a help line to provide advice to would-be adoptive parents and information for social workers.

International concern about overseas adoption rose after the Romanian revolution when 4,000 Romanian children were adopted by foreigners in a seven months, 400 hundred of them coming to Britain. All adoptions of Romanian children have now been stopped, while the country establishes new procedures to ensure couples are properly approved.

Adoption agencies and pressure groups welcomed the document. "All adopted children should come to this country by the front door and not the back," said Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton north-east, who founded the all-party Campaign for Inter-country Adoption.

Leading article, page 13



New life: Michael with Deborah Fowler. He has grown by nine inches since he was adopted

DEBORAH and Alan Fowler fought through red tape to adopt a boy aged two from Romania. Since the day in August 1990 when they took Michael from Orphanage Number Four they have watched him treble his weight, grow by nine inches and blossom into a boisterous little boy. However, they are still desperately concerned about the plight of other babies in eastern Europe, so much so that they want to try again.

Next month they are going to Romania with the approval of social services and the Home Office to bring a baby girl back to their home in Oxfordshire. Mrs Fowler said: "There is no heating in the orphanages in Romania because of the fuel crisis in Russia. We believe that hundreds, probably thousands, of children are dying. Yet the true extent of the problem in eastern Europe has not yet been revealed. There must be a similar situation in Russia and the only solution for most of these children is to come to the West."

The Fowlers aim to bring the first baby out of Romania since the Romanian Adoption Committee was set up by the Romanian government. Although the agency exists in theory it is not yet working in practice. Under a law passed last July the Romanians set up the committee to handle each adoption case but the regulations have hindered rather than helped.

Mrs Fowler said: "We are very pleased that the British government is doing something to speed up the process. We saw Michael getting weaker and weaker while the bureaucrats argued. We are going out on a test case to get the committee working."

Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton north-east, who founded the all-party Campaign for Inter-country Adoption, said that the future for adoption looked much brighter and the setting up of a helpline and central agency would help couples sort out problems quickly.

Most of the organisations working in adoption agree that the way forward is the setting up of a streamlined process like that outlined by the government. Since the downfall of Nicolae Ceausescu in 1990, there has been a flood of adoptions from Romania, spurred by TV pictures of squalid orphanages. Hundreds of babies have also been adopted recently from Thailand, India, South and Central America. Home Office figures cover only children from Romania with 335 entering Britain with authorised entry

Breast implant firm halts supplies

By LIN JENKINS

THE main supplier of silicone breast implants has stopped supplying British hospitals and clinics until they are shown to be safe.

Dow Corning, an American based manufacturer, yesterday announced its decision to stop supplying Europe, after America had banned implants. Colin Rowland, its European business manager, said: "Our executive management decided when they heard the announcement of the Food and Drug Administration ruling that we would voluntarily make the suspension of the distribution of implants world wide. We informed our main British customers today."

The three other manufacturers who supply Britain are expected to follow their example. The Irish Republic has suspended silicone implant surgery until further guidance from America.

Many British plastic surgeons have accused the FDA of scaremongering. They fear it may cause a rush of women wanting implants removed or frighten them into believing that, having beaten breast cancer, they now faced life-threatening disease from the implants.

Gus McGrouther, a plastic surgeon at University College Hospital, London, said: "In taking this action, the FDA has created a wave of international panic. The important thing to realise is that there has been no new evidence about the safety or otherwise of these implants. It is a political decision. What the Americans are frightened of is legal action."

Some 100,000 women in Britain are believed to have had implants. Just over 5,000 are performed each year, 60 per cent on those who have had surgery for breast cancer and 40 per cent for cosmetic reasons.

David Sharpe, consultant plastic surgeon at St Luke's Hospital, Bradford, said: "Unless there has been a huge conspiracy among surgeons, there is really nothing to worry about. If anyone is particularly worried, I will take their implants out free of charge."

About 10 per cent of people having implants had some problems, he said, but they amounted only to discomfort and were not life-threatening. "What worries me is that women who have rebuilt their lives after surgery, having been treated for breast cancer, will fear that they are going to get a terrible disease. It is just not true." He dismissed suggestions that the implants could increase the risk of breast cancer.

● The Australian government yesterday ordered several brands of silicone breast implants to be taken off the market because their makers cannot prove they are safe.

Analysis, page 11



Dismissing fears: surgeon David Sharpe with a textured surface implant

£5.7m discrepancy found in Property Services Agency

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMPUTER system controlling government sales and cabinets has been open to abuse and possible fraud because of poor management practices, according to a report by the National Audit Office published yesterday.

The report, on the Property Services Agency, claimed that an inexperienced officer had virtually unlimited control of the £10 million system and was not effectively supervised. "Control over access to the computer system was minimal: staff who were no longer authorised to use it, and two fictitious names thought to have been entered by a previous agency employee, continued to have access," it said.

Staff training was inadequate, procedures were not documented and wrong figures had been entered into accounts because of inaccuracies in stocktaking, it said. Staff were unable to generate invoices for equipment deliv-

ered direct to customers, and, consequently, substantial amounts had not been charged. "At least one duplicate payment, amounting to £92,000, had been made to a supplier," the report said.

No evidence of fraud was found, but the serious lack of control made it impossible to give an assurance that it had not occurred, the report said. An investigation by the audit office found discrepancies of £5.7 million in the Property Services Agency arising from accounting errors.

An agency spokesman said there was no question of a national security risk. No personnel would have had access to security cabinet codes or "secret numbers", he said. Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General,

qualified the PSA services accounts after estimating that customers - mainly government departments - were overcharged by millions of pounds because of invoice errors. A £61 charge for replacing a cistern was invoiced at £6,100, and a £20 job to supply tap washers at £920.

"My examination of charges to customers for directly employed labour revealed a high level of error, both in the number of errors found and in the size of the errors," Sir John said.

Sir John also identified difficulties in recovering the cost of services provided for US forces in Britain. The sum owed reached a peak of £36.4 million in September, 1990, but was reduced to £21.5 million at the end of last March.

Windsor buyer faces £2m bill

A new owner will have to dig deep for dolphins but Windsor is still a winner, reports Paul Wilkinson

POTENTIAL buyers of Windsor Park could face an extra £2 million bill for urgent work on the park's famous dolphinarium. But there should be no shortage of bidders for a jewel in the tarnished crown of its owners, the leisure group Theme International, which called in receivers on Monday.

William Travers, of the pressure group Zoo Watch, said that Windsor has been under pressure for some time to double the depth of its dolphin pools to meet government standards set more than two years ago and which had to be implemented by Spring 1993.

"A plaque has been posted over the dolphinarium for ten years now promising improvements, but so far nothing has been done," he said. "It will be interesting to see how the government deals with any new owners."

However, Windsor should still make money for a new proprietor. Although animals behind bars are fast losing their attraction as a tourist draw, the idea of wild beasts in a near-natural setting is still popular. Safari parks around Britain are weathering the storm relatively well.

Windsor's one million visitors annually are double those at Knowsley, Merseyside, and the Woburn Wild Animal Kingdom, Bedfordshire. In the British Tourist Authority's top ten of wildlife attractions only London Zoo attracts more people.

Windsor has also benefited from a partial move into the theme park business, combining wild animals with fairground attractions. It now includes a Kilimanjaro toboggan run and the African Queen riverboat ride. Chessington World of Adventures, Surrey, made a similar move some years ago and now pulls in around 1.5 million visitors a year.

Stephen Lewis, for the British Tourist Authority, said that safari parks were surviving "relatively well" whereas zoos had suffered badly with the recent losses of Knaresborough in Yorkshire and Bellevue in Manchester.

Cork Gully, receivers at Themes International, have pledged that the safari park will stay open for "some months" as the search for a buyer goes on. Their aim was to sell the parts of the business as going concerns. Marc Etches, managing director of Windsor Safari Park, said he viewed their future "very positively".

Golf course to cover medieval site

By KERRY GILL

THE site of a medieval village on the edge of the Solway Firth, which dates back 800 years, is to be covered by a nine-hole golf course less than a mile from an existing 18-hole course.

Planners yesterday approved an application by a farm company to turn four fields covering about 48 acres into a golf course near the village of Southwies, Dumfries and Galloway, even though the remains of the ancient village of Preston lie underneath.

Jane Page, the regional archaeologist, said yesterday that the precise site of the village was unclear and therefore she had not felt able to make a formal objection. "But I would like to know if

any remains are found so that they can be studied properly and not hacked up by a bulldozer. The original dwellings were probably made of turf with thatched or heather roofs and I would not expect there to be any remains of them, but there could be pottery or other artefacts."

Miss Page said that Preston must have been a large settlement as it became a burgh under a charter of 1663. However, by the end of the 18th century, it had dwindled to three inhabited farms. These were listed in the first statistical account of Scotland.

Dumfries and Galloway council stipulated that, if any artefacts were unearthed during construction of the

course, work would have to stop to allow an archaeological investigation. The last remaining physical evidence of the village is a market cross that was unearthed during the last century. It has been listed and stands beside East Preston farmhouse, which is now to become the club house.

Scotland had 425 golf courses five years ago, one course for every 13,000 people. To bring England, Wales and Northern Ireland up to half the Scottish standard would require an additional 700 courses to be built by the end of the century, a possibility causing environmentalists growing concern.

● The Earl of Lichfield, the royal photographer, said yes-

terday that a new house that he hopes to build on the site of a medieval ruined abbey would probably be for his son, aged 13. English Heritage has expressed concern that Lord Lichfield's plans would include demolition of part of a ruined 17th century mansion on the site of Ranton Abbey, near Stafford.

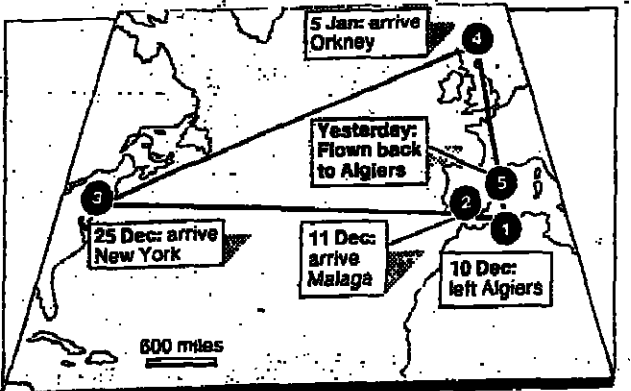
Stafford council, which is considering his application, said that the moated site was of particular historic and archaeological interest, forming an imposing and impressive feature in the landscape, and described Lord Lichfield's proposals as overly destructive. A council report said that the historic fabric of the ruin would be demolished to an unacceptable extent.

Stowaways miss new life by 10,000 miles

By KERRY GILL

THE huge engines of the Yugoslav oil tanker thundered into life, the ship edged out of Algiers harbour and three young Algerian stowaways wept with joy. Within two days they would be in Marseilles, where they could start a new life far from the increasingly fundamentalist regime of their mother country.

That was on December 10. Almost a month and some 10,000 miles later the three men peered out of a porthole to be greeted by a North Atlantic gale and the grim sight of the Flotta oil terminal in Orkney. Their leap to freedom last night ended with a



flight back to Algiers after they were collared by British immigration officers.

Amar Matmour, aged 20, Ali Bellemchera, aged 19, and Mustafa Terbak, aged 18, found themselves spend-

ing Christmas and New Year on the world's oceans as the Petar Lekovik lurched its way from Algiers to the Spanish port of Malaga, to New York and on to the storm-battered Isles of Orkney.

They had secreted themselves in the pump room as the vessel loaded oil in Algiers. But the 86,800-ton tanker's master had no intention of berthing in the French port. Instead she paused briefly in Malaga on December 11. After three days of seasickness in the bowels of the ship, Matmour, Bellemchera and Terbak gave themselves up.

Then followed 10,000 miles back and forth across the Atlantic, round the perilous waters off the north of Scotland and into Scapa Flow, where the tanker deposited them at the Flotta terminal on Sunday.

Rob Thomson, Orkney representative of the shipping

agents Escombe Lambert, said: "They were apparently told that a ship was about to leave for France, but they must have got on the wrong vessel. Once they gave themselves up to the crew they were well treated, but they had to continue to New York. They were just three unlucky young lads who arrived to find some pretty wild weather."

After they arrived in the United States on Christmas day the Algerian embassy began making preparations to have them returned to Algeria, but, banned from landing, they were forced to leave on Boxing day aboard the Petar Lekovik for the United Kingdom, the ship having quickly unloaded its oil.

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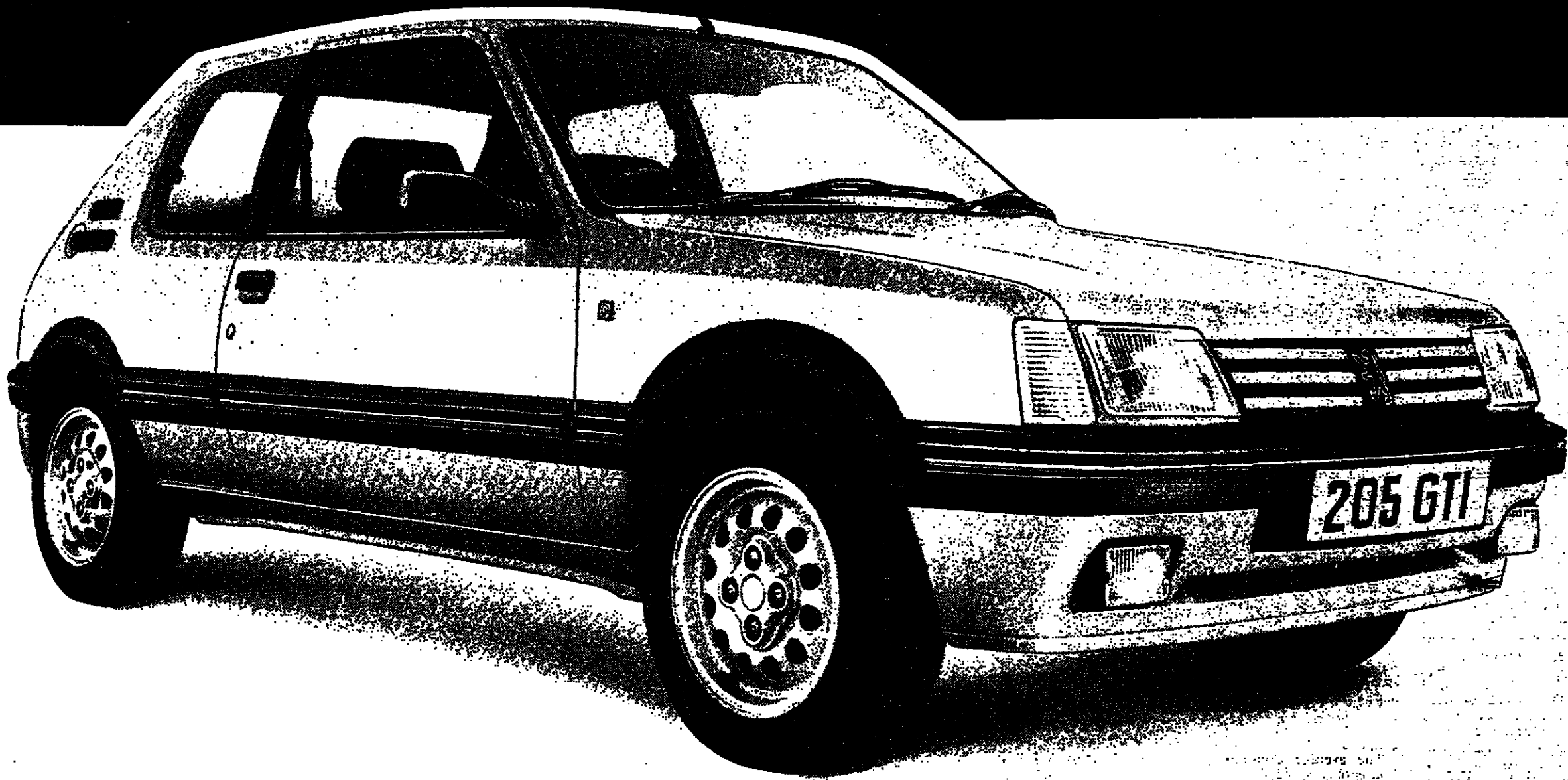


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EC told not to use farming subsidies to obstruct trade

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A SPECIAL adviser to President Bush warned the European Community yesterday not to obstruct agreement on liberalising world trade by the use of "obnoxious" subsidies to protect its farmers.

On the eve of crucial trade talks, Gary Blumenthal, adviser on agricultural trade, said that unless an agreement on a new world trade order could be reached by early April the chances of getting it approved by Congress this year would fade.

"The longer the negotiations drag on, the harder it will become to find sufficient time for congressional consideration. The further into April we get, the more difficult it will get," Mr Blumenthal told journalists.

In a separate address to the annual Oxford Farming Conference, Mr Blumenthal appealed to the Community to help to "stem the blood-letting in world agricultural trade" and "to join the other nations of the world already committed to substantial reform". The Community farm and trade ministers are due to

meet later this week in Brussels to finalise their response to the compromise text drawn up by Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to try to unblock the five-year-old Uruguay Round of trade talks. Parties have been asked to submit responses by January 13.

If the Community rejected the Dunkel text as too radical, the trade talks would be doomed, Mr Blumenthal said. "The Uruguay Round provides all GATT members with the opportunity to expand global trade and therefore economic growth. The EC must not foul this opportunity."

The most obnoxious part of the EC's common agricultural policy was the use of subsidies to dump its food surpluses on the world market, he said. "First, the Community blocks the admission of goods and then steals away markets elsewhere in the world. The US Department of Agriculture estimates that the EC has displaced 300 million tons of agricultural commodities globally from 1977 to 1989."

The Dunkel paper proposes a 24 per cent cut in the quantity of subsidised exports over six years starting next year, and a 36 per cent cut in expenditure on such subsidies over the same period. That has so far been opposed by the EC as too severe.

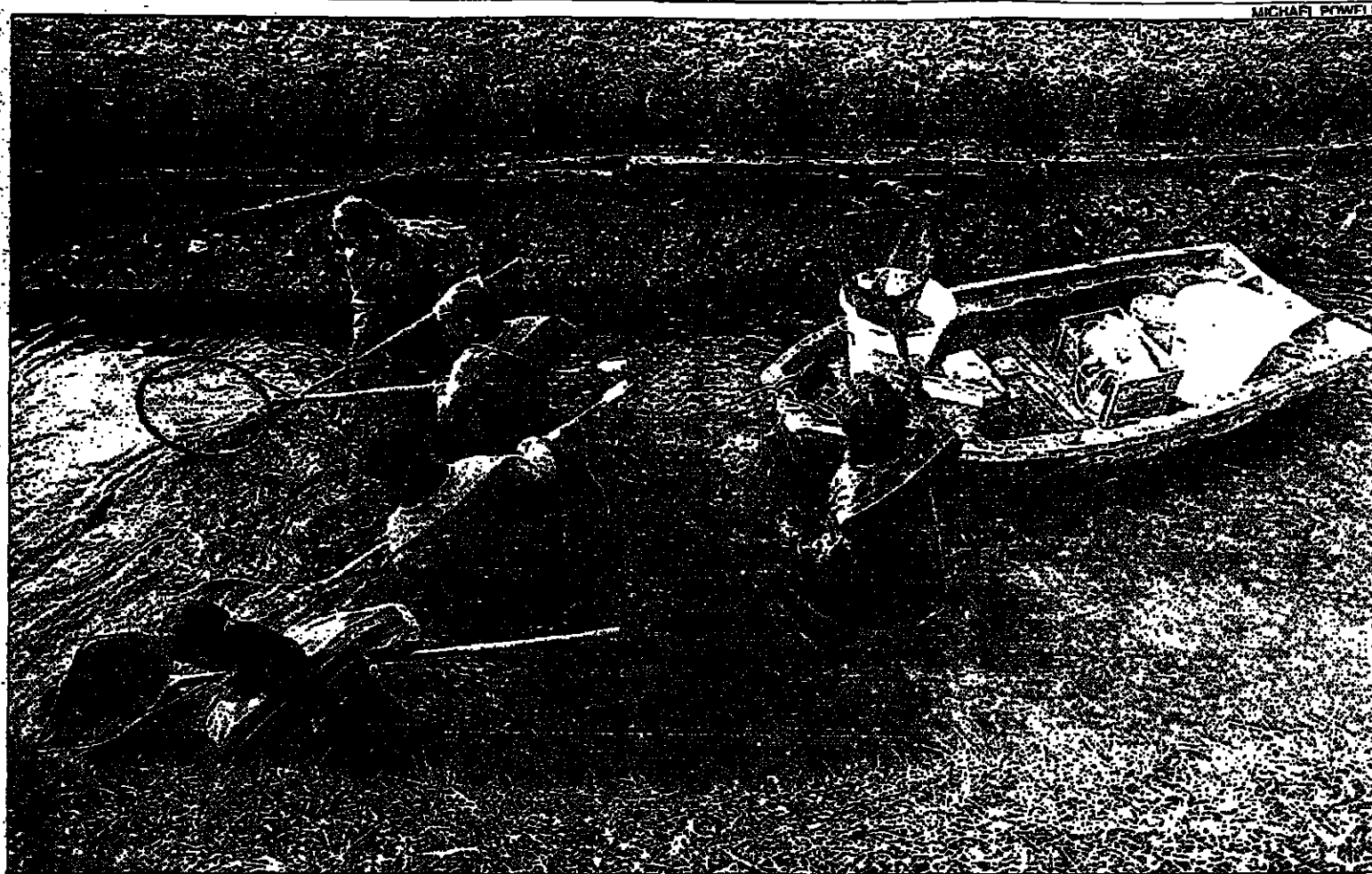
Mr Blumenthal said that the common agricultural policy had led in Britain and elsewhere to "the absurdity of scarce wooded areas being cut down to plant grains that are too expensive to be consumed in the Community, and which must then be exported at EC taxpayers' expense into world markets that are already glutted."

The average Community household was paying up to 27 per cent more in direct taxes and up to 32 per cent more on food purchases to pay for the policy, Mr Blumenthal estimated. The EC was setting a "horrible" example to countries in eastern Europe and Asia. If the EC and the US allowed their farmers to continue "their addiction to government subsidy", other countries would adopt similar policies.

A different line was taken by Lord Judd, a former Labour cabinet minister who recently retired as director of Oxford. He argued that developing countries had to be allowed under GATT to continue protecting their agriculture if they were to stand a chance of meeting their own food needs. Lord Judd said that an opening up of the EC market and an end to the dumping of food surpluses would benefit developing countries, but their food producers and infant industries would be unable to compete without some protection.

Mr Naish said that the remarks "seemed to run counter to recent moves by the environment department that have tightened planning controls on farmers". One interpretation of Mr Major's remarks by farmers is that he would favour such developments as conversion of disused farm buildings for housing or light industry.

Mr Naish said that he accepted Mr Major's message that farmers must learn to survive without subsidy, but was worried that there seemed to be no prospect of government help for farmers as they adjusted to a more market-oriented system.



Changing course: a National Rivers Authority team netting fish in the New River at Stoke Newington, north London, yesterday, after stunning them. The 17-mile river, which has provided drinking water for

north London for the past 350 years, is being drained so that a new water main can be laid below the river bed (Lucy Rock writes). Workers are transferring the fish to a nearby reservoir. The closure of the Stoke

Newington waterworks last November left the river with nowhere to flow and Thames Water is redirecting the water into the new main, which will take it to another waterworks, to prevent it stagnating. The

river, which runs from Ware in Hertfordshire to Stoke Newington, will be made redundant by the London water ring main which, when completed in 1996, will supply water to every part of the capital.

£800,000 stolen from heirs

A probate manager who stole more than £880,000 from will beneficiaries was jailed for five years at Luton crown court yesterday. Colin Grummitt, aged 46, of Rushden, Hertfordshire, admitted theft, deception and forgery.

"In a nutshell, he was opening building society accounts in the names of trustees of wills and then using various methods to withdraw the funds for himself," Christopher Ball, for the prosecution, said. The charges admitted by Grummitt related to six estates but 17 more were involved, Mr Ball said.

Grummitt had used the money to buy art works and property, including a villa in Minorca. The Solicitors Indemnity Fund had set aside £2.5 million for claims and costs from beneficiaries.

Hounds kill TV man's deer

A deer raised by Graham Dangerfield, the television zoologist, has been killed by hounds.

Mr Dangerfield said that about 20 hounds from the Enfield Chase Hunt broke down the fence of the deer's pen at his wildlife trust at Harpenden, Hertfordshire. He said that the hunt had apologised, but had claimed that the deer was a wild one.

Clampers lose

The Torquay wheel-clamping company whose employee was hoisted 10ft by a victim's forklift truck has lost its contract with Torbay council, which has accused it of "spying and prying" on cars.

Driver jailed

David Evans, aged 34, of Littlehampton, Devon, was jailed for 28 days and banned from driving for three years for driving 50 yards from a pub to his home while five times over the legal limit.

Graffiti protest

Jessie Powell, aged 68, of Abercraf, near Swansea, was jailed for seven days for refusing to pay a £75 fine for daubing Welsh slogans on government offices in Aberystwyth.

Economy drive

Derbyshire is using narrower white lines for road markings in an effort to save money.

Dentist has had his fill of politics

PATRICK Naylor, a dentist, wrote to all his patients just before Christmas. He told them that he could no longer work within the National Health Service because he felt he could provide better treatment as a private practitioner.

"It gets to the point where you don't feel you can carry on any longer in dentistry. I have got to look after my profession rather than my politics," he said. Because the NHS pays dentists for each filling or operation they perform, the financial motivation is to carry out work.

Mr Naylor, who practises in Hove, East Sussex, believes in preventative dentistry and

A growing number of dentists are opting to treat patients privately. Alison Roberts talked to one

we were included. In the 1950s and 1960s it was drill and fill. Now we understand how to look after your mouth so that we can prevent problems. The government is still stuck in stage two."

Many of Mr Naylor's patients reacted positively to his decision, although some were afraid of leaving the NHS. They have until May 1 to decide whether to register as private patients: 550 out of 3,500 have done so already.

He will continue to treat children and adults exempted from NHS charges under the NHS contract.

Mr Naylor's reasons for going private were not financial. "I shall probably be worse off, but I aim to make the same amount of money," he said. "I want to be away from the pressure and the 70-hour week I was working under the NHS."

He shares his practice with another dentist, Teresa Henley, who will remain within the NHS system. Private and NHS patients will share the waiting room and equipment. Theoretically, if the British Dental Association's proposals to reward dentists committed to the NHS with greater funding for their practice meet with a favourable response from the government, Mr Naylor's private patients could benefit from his partner's dedication.



Naylor: firm believer in preventative dentistry emphasises the educative role a dentist should play. He has joined an insurance scheme which pays him a monthly fee. His patients must take out insurance under the scheme, costing about £9.50 a month, which should cover the cost of most dental work.

He said: "There have been three stages of dentistry. The NHS was set up in 1948 and

Women shop workers 'do not want Sunday trading'

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WOMEN shop workers do not want to work on Sundays, and more than 40 per cent would try to leave their jobs if made to do so, according to a survey carried out last year.

David Kirby, of Durham university business school, told the Institute of British Geographers conference in Swansea yesterday that 73 per cent of the 483 women interviewed said that they would be unhappy if required to work on Sundays, and 43 per cent they would try to leave under those circumstances. Of those who would work on Sundays, 53 per cent said that they would want to be paid double time.

Professor Kirby, who interviewed women workers in 39 shops throughout Britain in August, said that many

tended to be vulnerable in the employment market. "This means that, if the hours of retail trading were extended, many would feel obliged to work unsocial hours on Saturdays and on Sundays."

The study, commissioned by the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, was completed before supermarket chains began opening on Sundays before Christmas. A strong association was found between a woman's willingness to work unsocial hours and whether or not she had children. Only 15 per cent of women with dependent children would be prepared to work regularly on Sundays.

Large areas of Wales officially listed as reclaimed from mining, are in poor condition and getting worse, the confer-

ence was told. Martin Haigh, of Oxford Polytechnic, said that large areas of the former Pwll Du opencast mine, near Blaenavon, Gwent, closed in 1947, had resisted plant colonisation for 40 years. Twenty years ago, an attempt had been made to persuade grass to grow on the bare slopes, but the cover remained thin and patchy, with areas of bare ground covered by algae, he said.

Many of the problems arose from bad engineering and poor management, including over-compaction of the soil and overgrazing. There were seldom sufficient resources to look after the reclaimed land and the government had failed to provide adequate long-term inspection and quality control.

Descendants of massacre victims rally to a monumental challenge

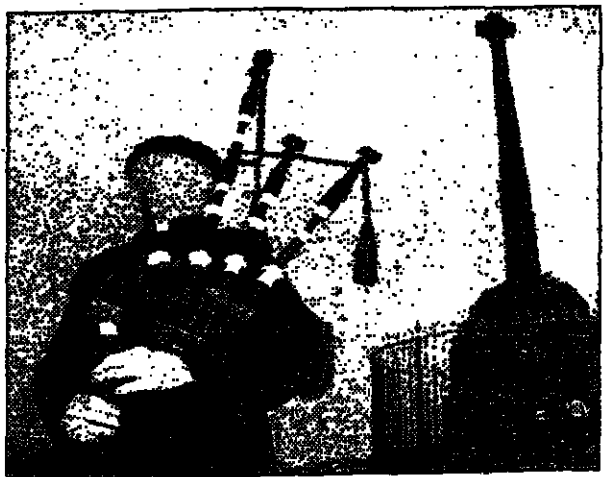
As the anniversary of the Glencoe killings neared, the Clan Donald faced a daunting task. Kerry Gill reports

A FACELIFT of the monument to the victims of the Glencoe massacre has been completed just in time for the 300th anniversary, but at one stage it looked as if the work might never get under way.

The monument to the 38 men, women and children slain by a force led by Captain Robert Campbell of Glenlyon, on the freezing morning of February 13, 1692, had fallen into disrepair through years of neglect. With hundreds of MacDonalds from around the world expected to pay homage, the Clan Donald Land Trust, a charitable body backed by exiled descendants, decided to avert embarrassment by tidying and repairing the monument and its approaches.

Numerous complaints had been made about the state of the memorial, and the clan thought it would be a simple task to clean the stonework, cut back the jungle of undergrowth and carry out landscaping.

Then it was discovered that no one had a clue who



Piper's lament: the Rev Kenneth Wigston, who will conduct the 300th anniversary service

owned the land. The National Trust for Scotland, having taken over 14,000 acres of Glencoe during the 1930s, believed it was the owner. It was not.

A legal search to find the title to one of the most historic patches of Scottish history proved fruitless. Without the owner's consent it would be difficult to raise the £30,000 necessary for the work or obtain permission from the local authority.

The monument, a Celtic cross on top of a plinth, sits close to Glencoe village and was erected in 1883 on the orders of Ellen Burns Mac-

Donald, daughter of Ewen, 17th Chief of Glencoe. The family owned the Glencoe estate but were forced to sell it 12 years later. Lord Strathcona took over the estate but not the land surrounding the memorial. Technically it still belongs to the heirs of the Burns MacDonalds, although who they are, or where they are, no one knows.

Eventually the planning authorities, satisfied that the owner was untraceable, gave permission for the work. The clan was given a substantial grant by the Countryside Commission for Scotland and the work has

just been completed. Rob Macdonald Parker, international director of the lands trust, said it would be officially opened the day before the tercentenary. The anniversary will be marked with the laying of a wreath by Lord Macdonald of Macdonald, the High Chief, and the singing of the 23rd psalm. Mr Parker said: "We will parade with pipers after a requiem service and then march up to the monument where the local minister will lead a service."

The MacDonalds, however, are anxious to avoid any ill-feeling with the Campbells. "We are not there to put the boot in. It is a memorial to the fallen. We will lay the wreath and remember the deeds of the day and how our clansmen fell," Mr Parker said.

The massacre took place after the chief of the MacDonalds of Glencoe was too late in swearing allegiance to William of Orange. The king ordered the clan to be punished and the immediate order for the massacre was given by Major Robert Duncanson to Campbell of Glenlyon. The bitterness felt by the MacDonalds was mainly due to the fact that the troops pretended to befriend the MacDonalds before putting them to the sword.

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Occupational psychology conference

Firms 'miss out on female skills'

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Correspondent

WOMEN have many of the qualities necessary to make them business leaders, but they are held back by male prejudices at work, a conference on occupational psychology was told yesterday.

As managers, women are better listeners, more collaborative, and more skilled in inter-personal relationships than men. These qualities, and some of their gentler feminine attributes, are essential for successful business, psychologists said.

Few women reach the top, however. Studies show that they hold only 1 or 2 per cent of the most senior posts in British companies and organisations. Although the National Health Service employs nearly a million women, few have top jobs. Even then, they earn less than men doing the same work.

"This is an indictment of the National Health Service."

Beverly Alimo-Metcalfe, senior lecturer in occupational psychology at Leeds University, told the conference, in Liverpool. In her study of 1,600 executives in the health service, she found that among a group of 170 general managers, 27 per cent of the men were at the top of the pay scale but only 13 per cent of their



Alimo-Metcalfe: plea for women leaders

female counterparts were in the same wage band.

Dr Alimo-Metcalfe said that organisations were becoming less rigidly structured, and executives' personal credibility and their ability to consult and to develop people's abilities were of increasing importance.

"These are the very qualities that women are criticised for having," she said. Women were denied top posts because most "gatekeepers" of these positions were men, many of whom had stereotyped views about women, she said.

"They see us as dependent, passive, non-competitive, illogical and less ambitious," she said. "But men underestimate women's desire for responsibility and advancement. Women who succeed in business do so because of, not in spite of, characteristics considered to be feminine and inappropriate in leaders. This increases an organisation's chances of succeeding."

Occupational psychologists should challenge assumptions that discriminated against women. Failures among male executives were dismissed as bad luck, but those among women were attributed to inability.

Viki Holton, of Ashridge Management College, Bedfordshire, said: "Women's leadership qualities emerge when they have the freedom to follow their own style. They make room for others, they are happy to share power and information with their staff."

However, Sue Newell, of Aston University, said that real equal opportunities for women required a revolution in attitudes towards male and female roles in raising children and running a home.

"Until then, perhaps we should abandon the idea of equal opportunities and allow women to get on with their traditional roles as mothers and housewives," she said.

"They shouldn't be seen as failures if they stay at home." Women at work can feel forced to change to acting in a more feminine way so as to defend or advance their careers, other psychologists said.



Julian Getreau, aged 18-months, with his mother, Valérie Ducani, the French violinist whose husband has been in a coma since 1986. Her father-in-law is trying to win a divorce for his son because she has had a child by another man

Men most likely to be redundant

By Our Medical Correspondent

DO YOU feel lacking in self-confidence, tense and suspicious and are you not much of an extrovert? If so, you may be an executive heading for redundancy, according to a psychological profile of failed businessmen.

A study of 580 senior executives in London and Birmingham who lost their jobs between 1988 and 1991 found these characteristics to be common.

The typical redundant executive is a 42-year-old man who has been with his company for about 11 years, ultimately earning between £28,000 and £30,000 a year. He may well be brighter and more energetic than most of his colleagues, but they may be irritated by those very traits.

His downfall is most likely to occur about two years after the arrival of a new boss, probably because of clashes of

personality or management style.

The profile was presented yesterday at a conference on occupational psychology by Lea Brindle, who provides psychological counselling and advice to companies and individuals and who has assessed more than 2,000 senior executives in recent years.

In the study group, 85 per cent of the executives were men aged from 21 to 60. "Age seems a mixed blessing, with older executives being less extroverted, less assertive, less venturesome and more serious-minded," Dr Brindle told the conference, organised by the British Psychological Society.

The older executive also tends to be more cautious, self-disciplined and conscientious than younger ones. Whatever the individual's age, his severance pay is likely to be about a year's pay.

Everybody needs good village neighbours

By John Young

THE English village needs to rediscover its traditional sense of community to counter the increasing loneliness and deprivation of many of its inhabitants, a booklet published yesterday suggests.

The cosy, reassuring image of the village as a place where everyone knew everyone else, and where people could count on neighbours for help and support, had become sadly dated over the past 40 or 50 years, the booklet's author, David Clark, former director of the charity Action with Communities in Rural England (Acrc), said. Schools and doctors' surgeries were closing; train and bus

services were less frequent and more expensive; jobs were hard to find and badly paid; and village shops were disappearing at a rate of about 3 per cent a year.

But, more importantly, people could no longer rely on their neighbours for help in a crisis, or to provide lifts to shops or hospitals, he said. Old people had no one to visit them and nowhere to meet; and mothers with young children were trapped in their homes without transport or baby sitters.

The report, commissioned and published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, studies six geographically and socially diverse villages which have introduced "good neighbour" schemes, whereby volunteers undertake to provide transport services, visiting and advice. Mr Clark said that only about 400 villages, out of a total of some 7,000, had set up good neighbour schemes. About 100 were in Hampshire, where the dioceses of Winchester, Portsmouth and Guildford had each appointed a full-time adviser, with financial help from the county council.

The six villages studied were Bledington, a farming community, in the Cotswolds; East Meon, Hampshire, where the old centre is mainly inhabited by relatively wealthy newcomers; Ashill, Norfolk, which has many retired people; Sleaford, West Sussex, whose population has been

expanded by commuters; Bawley, South Yorkshire, with a mixed population of commuters and miners; and Church Stretton, Shropshire, which has commuters and retired people.

David Trippier, minister for the environment and countryside, said yesterday that communities must be helped to help themselves. The booklet showed how local schemes could provide transport, advice, friendship and care to those who might otherwise feel left behind, he said.

Good Neighbours: a practical guide to setting up a village care group (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Fountains, 40 Water End, York YO3 6LP; £5.00).

Shy wife is thrust into the limelight

A newcomer joins two experienced hands as top wives take the stage for President Bush's visit to Japan. Empress Michiko and Barbara Bush are well accustomed to the limelight. But Yoko Miyazawa, wife of the Japanese prime minister, has always avoided the public eye. Yoko, who has a degree in English literature, met Kichiro Miyazawa on a ship crossing the Pacific on their way to a student conference. They married in 1959. Her daughter's husband is an American working for the U.S. State Department; the Japanese media refer to the couple's two girls as "the prime minister's blue-eyed grandchildren".

lifetime achievement. He says that he may take part in the Oscar celebrations by satellite from his Calcutta home. Ray, who wrote and directed more than 30 films in the Bengali language of his native eastern India, says that he grew up addicted to Hollywood gossip magazines.

Professor Stephen Hawking, the Cambridge academic who was told he would not live beyond the age of 10 when he contracted, most probably, a rare neurodegenerative disease as a student, today celebrates his 50th birthday. In 1988 Professor Hawking published *A Brief History of Time*, which became a best-seller.

The Las Vegas showman Wayne Newton says that he finds it difficult to hold a conversation with most people and that it just becomes small talk. "It's just that you're not on the same wavelength," Newton, aged 49, says in February's *Spy* magazine. "People are careful not to irritate you or anger you. They treat you like you're an eggshell. When, in fact, I guess in some ways you are." Newton, whom *Spy* says is surrounded by his staff, adds: "I miss buddies. I don't make a lot of friends, but I'm aware of those people that I could be friends with."



Dale Campbell-Savours, the Labour MP for Worthing, turned detective to beat a House of Commons thief who stole property worth hundreds of pounds from MPs' offices. The haul included Mr Campbell-Savours' portable telephone. He had the calls checked by BT, enabling the police to lay a trap for the thief, who proved to be a window cleaner.

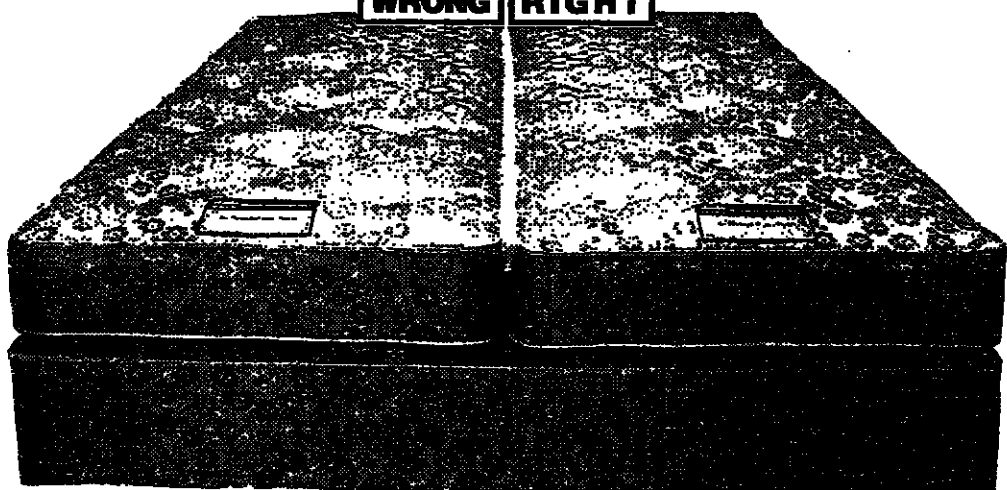
Ailing film maker Satyajit Ray says that he is daunted by the idea of attending a "wild" Oscar celebration and may skip the ceremony, where he is due to receive an award for

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ORTHOPAEDIC & MEDIBEDS

Czech cheque checked

London: Bank chiefs have agreed to pay a cheque for £22.75 in which they bounced 52 years ago. The cheque was paid by an English woman to a Czech company just weeks before the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia. But it was not sent to the bank for payment until the end of the second world war.

At the time, NatWest refused to pay because the cheque had been sent too late. Now the bank has had a change of heart after being sent the cheque for a second time. The bank said: "The woman's late grandmother made artificial flower arrangements and trimmings for brides all over Europe. The cheque came to light while she was looking through her possessions."

Safe again

Chichester: Chichester's Norman cathedral, which is more than 900 years old and was in danger of collapsing 30 years ago, will soon be declared structurally sound after repairs costing £3 million.

Hot property

Paris: A French firm is to publish the first international catalogue of stolen art works, detailing about 6,500 objects and paintings. (AFP)

Smog danger

Athens: Smog indicators exceeded emergency levels in the Greek capital yesterday, forcing the government to ban most cars from the centre. (Reuters)

Happy Ecu

Hereford: A hotel chief has started taking bookings for a New Year's party in 1999 to see in the 21st century. Peter Smith who runs the Caerberis Manor Hotel in Bullth Wells, Powys, believes people will be using Euro currency by then so he is charging 75 Ecu (\$50).

France prepares to outlaw the unwanted office flirt

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS



Cresson: her views on men are out of step

France claiming to have experienced sexual harassment at work, there can be no question but that workers are in greater need of protection.

According to a poll published earlier this week, over 90 per cent of the French believe that more serious attention should be paid to complaints about sexual pressures and intimidation in the workplace.

The difficulties of laying down precisely what constitutes an offence, beyond overt physical advances, are reflected in the first draft of the proposed law. When it was first under consideration in the national assembly three months ago, the idea was to follow the broad thrust of the European Community's code adopted in July 1990.

In a brave shot at defining the offence, that took aim at "unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, or other conduct based on sex affecting the dignity of women and men at work, including unwelcome psychological, verbal or non-verbal conduct". Skirting the boundaries of dirty jokes, sexual innuendo and straightforward physical advances, the French settled for a code that may have threatened the national pastime of flirting in the workplace but at least established a framework on which companies can base their individual practices.

Despite the difficulty of deciding what precisely constitutes sexual harassment, the secretary of state for women's rights, Véronique Neiretz, who has discussed virtually every line of the bill with organisations active in the field, believes that the essential is to protect workers from discrimination or dismissal if they reject a superior's advances.

But, as *The Times* observed a few months ago, some find it odd that the government pressing for these reforms is headed by Edith Cresson, whose complaints about the lack of attention paid to women by Anglo-Saxon men are now a matter of embarrassing record. Mme Cresson's view of what constitutes a "true, red-blooded male" are some way from those of the largely female activists seeking a new code of conduct for the workplace.

Bureaucrats build a Brussels babel

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

AS 1992 opens and the European Community starts the final year of demolishing trade barriers for the single European market, a new European language is being born.

As if monolingual British businessmen did not have enough worries about being outpaced by quadrilingual Danes, they now have to be able to tell a supermodel from a tootsi. They may need to know what coustou, courel and ibass are, but none of them appears in the standard dictionaries of any of the EC's national languages. Slowly but quietly, the Brussels Eurocrats have written a bleak, technocratic Esperanto all of their own.

So far, the jargon comprises only nouns, but with such a total now accumulated, can verbs and sentences be far behind? Many of these terms start life as acronyms, but quickly lose their capital

letters as they seep into everyday language. A Eurocrat might be heard suggesting using erds to fix the tootsi for the script for Babel. That is much quicker than spelling out that the European Reliability Data System should use Telematic Object-Oriented Tools for Service Interfaces for the Support for Creative Independent Production Talent programme at the European Foundation for Multilingual Television (aptly named Babel).

Apparent similarities can deceive. In Brussels, furs are not derived from animals but turn out to be functional urban regions. Imps are not naughty sprites but integrated Mediterranean programmes — and an expensive nuisance, just the same. Britain argued that less money should be spent in the Mediterranean and the counter-proposals were called "shrimps".

UN vote prompts Arabs to resume Washington talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE Middle East peace process appeared to be back on track yesterday after Arab participants indicated that they were ready to resume talks in Washington. Their decision came after the UN Security Council's unanimous condemnation of Israel for its deportation order on a dozen Palestinians.

However, the move provoked a defensive response from the Israeli leadership which refused to reconsider its decision to expel the 12 Palestinian activists from the occupied territories. The visiting Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, raised the issue when he met the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, yesterday and brought up the thorny question of Palestinian political and human rights. He urged the Jewish state to remove obstacles to peace such as the deportation orders. Mr Shamir told Dr Carey he "abhorred the taking of expulsion and imprisonment measures" but insisted that they were appropriate in dealing with terrorism.

Although the expulsion orders are likely to be carried out, Palestinian sources pre-

dicted yesterday that the strong condemnation of Israel at the UN would enable the four Arab teams — Syria, Lebanon and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation — to resume their negotiations, which were due to have convened at the State Department building yesterday. "The security council has saved the peace process, and we can only express our appreciation of its efforts and those of all countries which contributed," Ahmed Abderahman, the PLO's spokesman in Tunis, said. Faris Bouez, the Lebanese foreign minister, said later in Beirut that the UN decision removed his country's previous reservations about taking part in the talks.

Ghassan Khatib, a Palestinian delegation member, predicted that the negotiating team would return to Washington by the end of the week, once the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, had co-ordinated a joint Arab position with the leaders of the countries involved in the talks.

However, he said that the deportation issue was not over, adding: "We have expressed satisfaction with the UN resolution, but we will insist that the international community follows up the issue" if the deportations are carried out.

Although deportations of an occupied people are banned by the fourth Geneva convention, Israel argues that they can be carried out against individuals suspected of involvement in violent attacks on Israelis, four of whom have been killed in the occupied territories by Palestinian gunmen in the past ten weeks.

Since the start of the intifada 66 Palestinians have been deported. But only once in 24 years has a Palestinian's appeal against expulsion

Mr Barzani thanked Mr Archer for organising last year's Simple Truth fundraising effort and described him as "a friend of the Kurdish people". He was "completely satisfied" with how the funds had been accounted for.

The money could certainly be put to good use in Halabja. The flat concrete roof of the general hospital resembles nothing so much as a giant piece of paper crumpled and thrown to the ground. Down the road is the police station, dynamited by Iranian troops when they took the city in their war with Iraq. Across from there is the municipal theatre, completely destroyed when Iraqi government forces re-entered a city they had used chemical gas to empty of people in 1988.

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Mr Barzani, who is leader of the Kurdistan Democratic party, explained that the Kurds needed the revenue to pay teachers and civil servants who had lost their salaries when Baghdad imposed an economic blockade on the Kurdish region two months ago. "I would love to stop it, but I can't," he said. He added that 400,000 people, 10 per cent of the Kurdish population in northern Iraq, were dependent on government salaries or pensions.

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Kick start President Bush in Kyoto yesterday after arriving in Japan, joining in a demonstration of Kemari, the Japanese game that resembles soccer

Bush skirts key players in Japan

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

WITHIN an hour of touching down in Japan yesterday, on the final leg of his Asia-Pacific tour, President Bush was playing football. During a tour of the ancient capital of Kyoto, he and Mrs Bush were treated to a demonstration of kemari, an imperial court ball game dating back to the Heian Era (794-1192). Unable to resist joining in, Mr Bush launched a few kicks at the ball and then startled the players with an athletic header before being whisked off for more sightseeing.

The broadest grin was to be found on the face of Toshiki Kaihi, the former prime minister, who was permitted a brief return to the limelight to greet the president and host a lunch because Kiichi Miyazawa, his successor, was attending a service to commemorate the third anniversary of the death of Emperor Hirohito.

While Mr Bush's stated aim on this visit is to prise open Japan's markets to more American products, he will be spending much of his time with people who cannot help him. Mr Kaihi is in no position to fulfil Mr Bush's de-

mands, and the rest of the president's day was spent congratulating one of the few American businessmen to have succeeded in Japan. Visiting a new branch of the US toy chain, Toys R Us, Mr Bush talked of toys being at the cutting edge of American efforts to penetrate the Japanese markets. "Each partner must realise the benefit of free markets. We want permanent improvement in our access to Japan," he said.

Today Mr Bush will be meeting Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. Between items on his courtesy schedule, Mr Bush must find time for two meetings and a working lunch with the prime minister. Few are expecting any excitement from the summit. Unfortunately, the real Liberal Democrat kingpins, Noboru Takeshita and Ichiro Ozawa, who run Japanese politics from behind the scenes, will be allowed to make only small talk at a reception. As they hold no public office, protocol forbids a meeting with Mr Bush.

Japanese rebuff, page 21

Senators attack US murder rate

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

WHILE the president was fighting America's economic battles in Japan yesterday, his domestic opponents turned their attention to the administration's failure to curb a soaring murder rate.

The Democrat-controlled Senate judiciary committee was publicising a report that showed a 25 per cent increase in the number of American murders between 1985 and 1991. There were 24,020 murders last year, 582 more than in 1990, setting a national record for the second consecutive year.

Joseph Biden, the committee's chairman, accused President Bush of "doing too little to fight this epidemic which is likely to claim 100,000 lives under his administration". In remarks intended to reinforce the Democrats' criticism of the globe-trotting president, Senator Biden said: "A year which saw the rest of the world become safer for Americans saw this nation become less safe for its own citizens."

"Unless we embark on a major offensive now against drugs, deadly weapons and violent young criminals, the record carnage will continue

Marcos vows to run in elections

BY DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PROMISING that "happy days are here again", Imelda Marcos believes that the Philippines is ready for another dose of the family magic. Six years after she and President Marcos, her late husband, fled the country, Mrs Marcos announced her intention yesterday of running in the presidential elections on May 1.

She made her announcement immediately after pleading not guilty to the latest of a string of corruption charges. So far, she faces 40 criminal charges that carry a possible total penalty of over 400 years in jail.

Picking her moment fearlessly on the steps outside the court and looking as though she bore the country's woes on her fashionably dressed shoulders, she said: "I have gone all over the country and seen so much suffering and economic chaos... There is a cry, a need for someone to help our people in misery."

"After months of erect consultation with our poor and oppressed citizens, I have decided to run for office," said the woman who, with her husband, seemed to confuse the national exchequer with her personal bank account. A Marcos candidacy would be a disaster for the opposition National party for which she is expected to run. The nationalists are already fielding three candidates: Vice President Salvador Laurel, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Eduardo Cojuangco, a businessman — one of whom is enthusiastic about a Marcos entry. Her candidacy might even convince Mrs Aquino to change her mind and run again. Yesterday she was insisting that she intended to go and would announce the administration's candidate later this month.

Chinese kidnap alleged by MPs

Hong Kong: Three Canadian MPs arrived here last night claiming that the Chinese authorities had "kidnapped" and manhandled them. They said the incident would sour relations between Peking and Ottawa (Jonathan Braude writes).

Svend Robinson, the leader of the delegation, said they had been taken to a police compound, treated roughly and held there by about 100 policemen and public security officers before being escorted in a convoy of 14 vehicles to the airport and expelled to Hong Kong.

"We were kidnapped on a bus and held against our will," he said. "We were manhandled by a large number of police officers." Beryl Gaffney, aged 61, a grandmother, was led by the arm, but said the two men were given rougher treatment.

● Ottawa: Barbara McDougall, the Canadian external affairs minister, denounced the expulsions as "an affront to the institution of parliament", and insisted that the three MPs had neither broken Chinese law nor had any plans to do so (John Best writes). "We would all like to believe that the Chinese record on human rights is improving but unfortunately the Chinese authorities continue to demonstrate no evidence of this," she said.

Dispute delays hostage release
Beirut: Divisions among Lebanese Muslim fundamentalists over the release of foreign hostages have blocked attempts to free Heinrich Striebig and Thomas Kempton, the two Germans remaining captive here.

A fundamentalist official said December's agreement between a faction of hostagetakers and the UN on the unconditional release of all American and British captives had angered rivals who warned hostages, exchanged for Arab detainees in Israel and Europe.

Neo-Nazi held
Vienna: Austrian police arrested Gottfried Küssel, the self-proclaimed neo-Nazi Führer, on suspicion of Nazi activities. Herr Küssel, aged 33, praised Hitler on American television last month and denied that people were murdered in Nazi death camps.

Summit call
New York: Britain has invited Paris, Washington, Moscow and Peking, and Tokyo and the 10 non-permanent member states of the UN Security Council to a summit in New York on January 30.

Closer ties
Peking: China has established diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan. The two countries signed a communiqué establishing relations at ambassadorial level, according to a report by Xinhua, China's official news agency. (AFP)

Pope wins plea
New York: Responding to a last-minute plea by the Pope, the governor of Texas granted a 30-day stay of execution to Johnny Frank Garrett, aged 28, two hours before he was due to die by lethal injection for killing Sister Tadea Benz in 1981.

Arms build-up
Los Angeles: Iran is spending billions of dollars in deals with Russia, North Korea, Argentina and other countries as part of an arms build-up that is making it the leading military power in the Gulf, the Los Angeles Times reported. (Reuters)

Burma siege
Macao, Thailand: Abdul Razak, a Burmese guerrilla commander, claimed that opposition forces in eastern Burma had killed more than 100 of 1,000 government soldiers laying siege to a rebel camp named Azein. (Reuters)

Coup alleged
Damascus: Iraqi opposition sources in Tehran claim that President Saddam Hussein has executed 80 officers involved in an abortive coup last month, the official Syrian Arab news agency reported. There was no independent confirmation. (AP)

Simon arrives
Johannesburg: Paul Simon, the American singer whose visit to South Africa is strongly opposed by some black radical groups, arrived last night wearing dark glasses. He was practically unnoticed — except by a considerable contingent of journalists.

Desperate Kurds break sanctions

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN HALABJA

KURDS in Halabja await the arrival of Jeffrey Archer with interest. So far Mr Archer has travelled to Salahuddin with the peshmerga, the Kurdish rebels, to assure Massoud Barzani, the rebel leader, that Britain will continue to deploy Jaguar aircraft to protect the Kurds from President Saddam Hussein.

Mr Archer will also meet Jalal Talabani, the other rebel leader, to give similar assurances. But what the Kurds of Halabja want to know is when the \$57 million raised by Mr Archer is going to reach them. Mr Barzani admitted to Mr Archer that the Kurds were so badly off that they were conniving in breaking of United Nations sanctions against Iraq. They needed the revenue from customs duty, he said. Mr Archer said he had raised the issue after seeing hundreds of Turkish lorries going home loaded with Iraqi diesel fuel.

Mr Barzani, who is leader of the Kurdistan Democratic party, explained that the Kurds needed the revenue to pay teachers and civil servants who had lost their salaries when Baghdad imposed an economic blockade on the Kurdish region two months ago. "I would love to stop it, but I can't," he said. He added that 400,000 people, 10 per cent of the Kurdish population in northern Iraq, were dependent on government salaries or pensions.

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Carey: plea to Shamir is rejected
been upheld in an Israeli court.

The threat of further international action against the Jewish state is unlikely to be taken lying down, given the angry response that the first UN resolution provoked. "We are used to the fact that the UN takes one-sided resolutions against us," the head of the Israeli delegation, Benjamin Netanyahu, said. "There are no condemnations of acts of terror that prompted the security action on our part. There is no call to end this murderous violence."

Syria's threat, page 12

New phones put callers in the picture

The video telephone, predicted since the 1940s, will at last go on general sale this spring, Charles Bremner writes from New York

SINCE the 1940s, video telephones have been just around the corner. The stuff of science fiction and exhibitions of Tomorrowland. Now, as the video century nears its end, the picture phone has finally reached the market in America, bringing talk of historic change and some anxiety.

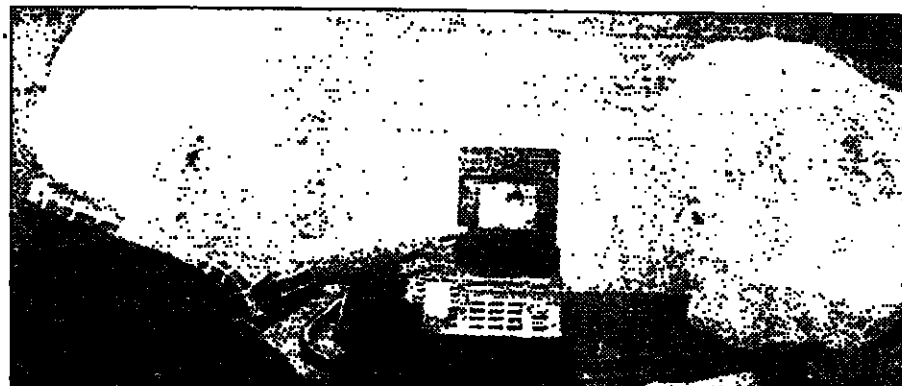
The AT&T company unveiled its "affordable" VideoPhone in New York on Monday night, predicting a revolution more far-reaching than fax machines and more profound than the invention of moving pictures or colour television. From the spring, anyone with \$300 to spare will be able to buy a VideoPhone at the high street shop and plug it into an ordinary telephone socket in America or anywhere else.

The price should drop sharply if the phone, which looks like an ordinary model with a little flip-up screen, proves popular. The prospect has gladdened the hearts of lonely grandpar-

ents and excited the interest of techno-buffs, dating services and home shopping companies, but it has also brought on longstanding qualms about losing the protective camouflage offered by the old steam telephone.

Actually, AT&T is making good on the "launch" of its PicturePhone at the World's Fair in New York in 1964, an idea that was ahead of the technical possibilities of the time. Businessmen and others have been using video technology for conferencing for 15 years, but the need for special lines and equipment has kept the cost far out of the consumer's reach.

AT&T's breakthrough was in finding a way to squeeze the television signal into the copper cables which still carry most telephone circuits despite the arrival of the much higher capacity fibre optic networks. In achieving the equivalent of forcing a fish tank of information



In full view: a family call on a picture telephone is demonstrated in New York.

through a drinking straw, the VideoPhone has considerable limits. Its picture, a flat liquid-crystal colour display about the size of a playing card, looks jerky and slightly out of sync with the talker's speech. The effect is rather like watching an old Godzilla film with dubbed speech. The reason is that after the computerised circuits whittle down the data, the display transmits 10 frames per second, compared with about 30 frames for standard television.

The septs are numerous. A recent poll showed that fewer than half the public likes the idea of

being seen on the telephone. It could change the lives of people such as reporters who depend on good phone technique without having to worry about such things as their looks, eye contact or "body language". The VideoPhone does have a button to press to allow you to see yourself before transmitting your picture and also a device that will enable the naked, the unkempt and the shy to block the video. However, the decision to use it will, of course, amount to a statement.

As well as opening a whole new field of etiquette,

the VideoPhone raises prospects of abuse by obscene callers, though these are being deterred in America by the recent innovation of "Caller ID" which displays the calling number on a digital display on the phone. Consumer groups are already campaigning to bar the use of VideoPhones by sex service. Some market experts say the cost and the need for a VideoPhone at each end is likely to deter customers.

But the company and enthusiasts say the possibility of seeing your interlocutor will prove irresistible.

HIMLEY HALL—A NEW NATIONAL GLASS MUSEUM: BRIEF FOR A STUDY BY CONSULTANTS



Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council is keen to develop Himley Hall, a Grade 2* listed building in 200 acres of historic parkland, all in its ownership, as a new national glass museum, gallery and exhibition centre.

To this end, it intends to engage consultants to develop a concept plan and, from this, to detail a museum brief, a brief for architects and a business plan.

If you are interested in bidding for this work, contact the Project Director, Paul Watson on 0384 452146 for a copy of the study brief or for any further information.

Expressions of interest, together with information on expertise and experience, need to be received by January 17, 1992.

Department of Planning and Architecture
3 St James's Road
Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1HZ.

DUDLEY
Metropolitan Borough

Man with a Mirror image

Ernie Burrington, the new chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, is a tabloid journalist's journalist. Richard Holford profiles the man with a big act to follow

Shortly after he bought the Mirror Group Robert Maxwell decided to launch a variation of Bingo. The aim was simple: a reader would win a million pounds. Like most of Maxwell's plans the execution was complicated. Two pages at least were required to explain the ins and outs to a reader but bemused public.

On the eve of the launch Maxwell summoned the editors of his two Sunday titles — Bob Edwards of the *Sunday Mirror* and Ernie Burrington, deputising for Richard Stott of *The People*. Maxwell, so the story goes, adjured *The People* editor to be the superior and, knowing he did not drink, offered Burrington a bottle of champagne as a "prize". Burrington asked for a drink.

That appealed to Maxwell, and the start of a wary relationship between the two men which lasted until Maxwell's ill-fated yachting expedition last November. Maxwell appeared to lean heavily on Burrington. He would phone Burrington at home on Sundays for advice on headlines and the treatment of stories in the *Daily Mirror*. The relationship propelled Burrington — "Bernie", as Maxwell called him (he was as casual with other people's names as he was with his own) — into the limelight he had long coveted: the editorship of *The People*.

A few years later it propelled him, with great reluctance, into management of Mirror Group Newspapers. Now, after the death of Maxwell, Burrington, a name unknown outside Fleet Street and hardly well known to newspapermen beyond the Mirror building, has suddenly been thrust into the chairmanship of one of the great newspaper empires in the world, with the unenviable job of presiding over its sale and determining its destiny.

A more unlikely custodian, at first glance, would be hard to imagine. People with long memories recall him as a faintly vaudevilian character with an impish sense of humour and a propensity for quoting chunks of Churchill's speeches.

As an editor, in a permanently rumpled suit, he would preside over the back bench in a pall of cigarette smoke. His shirt was inevitably hanging out, his tie awry. It was a deceptive act. Burrington was a shrewd tabloid newspaperman, a good reader of copy, a headline writer of wit, a sound man-manager. Then, at 50, he comes at you sideways. He talks out of the side of his mouth, between gulps of the ever-present cigarette, his eyes flicking into the middle distance. As one leading media observer put it: "You can have the most gnomish conversations with Ernie, using the oddest analogies in which little is said but all is explained."

Roy Greenslade, who edited the *Daily Mirror* for one uncomfortable year under Maxwell, rates Burrington as a man who has acquired formidable political skills. "He is probably one of the most witty and I don't mean that pejoratively — operators I have come across. He has enormous political tact. Virtually alone of all the management close to Maxwell he has emerged as the one who didn't succumb to the role of propagandist and sycophant."

Burrington uses his wit to avoid obvious and direct confrontation. He stays staunchly loyal to friends, whether they are useful to his career or not, and is implacably opposed to the venal, the shams and the overpaid unprofessionals.

He was initially disappointed to lose *The People's* editorship and was uncomfortable in the huge office he inherited from Maxwell, with its views over the City of London.

Now he tells colleagues: "I came to



Nearly man at the top: Ernie Burrington, the chairman of MGN

see management as a kind of husbandry. You plant a seed and maybe one year later you reap the harvest — a harvest you can measure in millions of pounds of profit."

One of the happiest spells of his career was spent night-editing the *Daily Mirror* in the 1960s, because he had an excellent staff which "instinctively knew how to do things." He joined the *IPC Sun* and stayed on when Rupert Murdoch bought it. One reason he stayed was because he believed Mr Murdoch would bring to the new *Sun* some of

the values that had helped shape the glory days of the *Mirror*, and which had been abandoned.

For many years it seemed Burrington would not get the top job on *The People*. He was passed over when Nick Lloyd got the job and again when Richard Stott was preferred. "For a long time it seemed as if he would be the nearly man," recalls a senior member of his *People* staff. "I think he became bitter. No one on the paper ever doubted he had the ability, so when he got the job there was a sort of

collective 'aaah' of pleasure. We were so pleased that someone had taken over the paper who would put the interests of the paper first."

What, now, does he think of Maxwell? "At his best he made things happen. It was exciting. Maxwell was appallingly vain and egotistical. I think it could reasonably be said that no one could have known he pillaged the place in quite the way he did. When we realised, it was very distressing."

He recognises as well as any the value of the poison chalice of editing a Maxwell paper. Editors were picked and dropped. Maxwell never learned the difference between a good story and a bad one, a good journalist and a bad one, and although he was hailed the day after his death as the man who saved the *Daily Mirror*, Maxwell probably did more than anyone to curb the potential of the MGN titles. *The People* dropped from 3,350,799 in September 1984 to 2,284,319 by March 1991.

No wonder, too, that Burrington had told Maxwell that he was going to retire early this year. He lives in some substance on a mature private estate in Orpington, Kent, and has a penchant for travel in exotic parts. With three grandchildren, retirement would have afforded him considerable pleasure.

Now he's not so sure. He relishes the new challenge. In a piece in the *Sunday Express* some weeks ago he appeared to distance himself from the proposed management buyout led by *Mirror* editor Richard Stott. He is keen to keep the four titles — *Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *People* and *The Sporting Life* — in the same stable and apparently fears that an internal buyout would see the separate sale of *The People* and *The Sporting Life*.

So no wonder he is keen to be the man who steadied the ship — his conversation is spattered with military allusions — see the company stabilised and a future guaranteed for its three main constituencies: the pensioners, the shareholders and the employees. And for the papers to continue with the gutsy professionalism he so admires.

A Christmas in front of the box



The big festive film: Michael Keaton in *Batman*

THE QUEEN can be grateful to the schedulers who planned independent television's Christmas programmes. Brian MacArthur writes. As the scheduling of Christmas programmes, Channel 4 halted the continuing decline in audience for the Queen's Speech. By scheduling the 3pm broadcast in the middle of *Coronation Street*, ITV boosted its audience for the speech to 10.5 million, compared with 4.3 million in 1990. ITV's audience equaled the audience for the BBC broadcast of the speech,

which was 16.7 million in 1990. More than 23 million watched the broadcast.

A vivid portrait of the British on Christmas Day is presented by the audience ratings, which show that at 8pm 24 million people were slumped in front of their television sets watching either *Birds of a Feather*, followed by *Keeping Up Appearances*, on BBC1, or *Crocodile Dundee 2* on ITV. Another 4 million were watching *Pavarotti in the Park* on Channel 4 or *White Christmas* on BBC2.

BRITAIN'S TV CHRISTMAS DAY

Rank	Programme	Time	Channel	Viewers
1	The Queen's Speech*	Various	BBC1/ITV	23.3m
2	Only Fools and Horses	3.10pm	BBC1	14.3m
3	Batman The Movie	6.00pm	BBC1	14.3m
4	Coronation Street	7.31pm	ITV	13.6m
5	Coming To America	9.30pm	BBC1	13.0m
6	Christmas Generation Game	4.00pm	BBC1	12.5m
7	Birds of a Feather	8.00pm	BBC1	12.4m
8	Keeping Up Appearances	8.50pm	BBC1	11.8m
9	Crocodile Dundee 2	8.00pm	ITV	11.6m
10	Coronation Street	3.05pm	ITV	11.1m

*Total for BBC1, BBC2, ITV, Channel 4.

CHRISTMAS WEEK'S BIG FILMS

Rank	Film	Date	Channel	Viewers
1	Batman The Movie	Dec 25	BBC1	14.3m
2	Coming To America	Dec 25	BBC1	13.0m
3	The Great Outdoors	Dec 27	BBC1	12.9m
4	Mary Poppins	Dec 26	ITV	12.1m
5	A Fish Called Wanda	Dec 26	BBC1	12.0m
6	Empire of the Sun	Dec 28	BBC1	11.7m
7	Crocodile Dundee 2	Dec 25	ITV	11.6m
8	Police Academy 5	Dec 28	ITV	11.5m
9	Raiders of the Lost Ark	Dec 23	ITV	11.4m
10	Rain Man	Dec 23	BBC1	11.3m

Sources: The Media Factor/BARR

TV magazines list their blessings

Christmas sales figures bring a seasonal glow to publishers

OVER the Christmas period, television listings magazines sold more than 12 million copies, more than doubling their usual circulation. Dr John Thomas, the director of BBC Magazines, publisher of the *Radio Times*, proclaims himself well-pleased.

Traditionally, the Christmas period has enabled *Radio Times* and its rival, Independent Television Publications' *TV Times*, to put fat on their figures. They produce bumper issues, crammed with advertising, to cover the holiday. In 1990, they each sold more than ten million copies, bringing a glow to the cheeks of Dr Thomas and John Matthews, his ITP counterpart. But that was the last occasion Christ-

mas viewers needed both magazines because they subsequently lost the right to publish exclusive listings details.

Funditis expected a rash of new listings titles but recession and uncertainty about costs held back new launches. One early player, *TV Plus*, folded and only two new weekly magazines survive: *TV Quick*, a down-market offering from H. Bauer, a German publisher, and *What's On TV*, a similarly unexciting publication by ITP, part of the IPC group. By last autumn, *Radio Times* was selling 1.5 million, *TV Times* 1.2 million, *What's On TV* 1.4 million

and *TV Quick* had sales of only 650,000.

Over the two weeks of Christmas 1991, *Radio Times* extended its lead to 4.9 million, *TV Times* hit 4.1 million, *What's On TV* achieved 2.3 million and *TV Quick* trailed with 1.35 million.

Although sales of the *Radio Times* are less than

half the 1990 figure, Dr Thomas is "pleased" and expects a small profit this year. John Mellon, ITP's chairman and managing director, also forecasts that ITP will be profitable this year.

Alan Urry, the managing director of Bauer UK, is "more than satisfied" with *TV Quick's* Christmas sales.

CHRISTMAS TV LISTINGS

	Normal distribution	Christmas distribution
Radio Times	1.5m at 55p (Sept)	4.9m at £1.10 (8m)
TV Times	1.2m at 55p (Jan)	4.1m at £1.00 (4.3m)
What's On TV	1.4m at 28p (Oct)	2.3m at 80p (3m)
TV Quick	650,000 at 40p (June)	1.35m at 80p (2m)

* Date of last price rise in brackets. † Actual number distributed in brackets.

But he admits that profits are still some way off.

All three publishers heaved a sigh of relief when only one newspaper, the *Sunday Mirror*, challenged them with a comprehensive listings guide over the holiday. The paper's supplement lifted its sales from 2.74 million to 3.12 million.

Only two national papers, the *Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*, have published weekly television listings — as supplements on Saturdays. In the provinces, 20 of the Newspaper Society's 1,500 members have tried versions, while *Hello*, the only national magazine with full listings, has halved its coverage.

The reason for hesitancy is clear. The copyrights to BBC and ITV schedules are vested in BBC Enterprises (BBC Magazines' parent) and ITP and charge hefty rates.

Many newspaper and magazine groups, including News International, publisher of *The Times*, have opted to challenge the rates before the government's Copyright Tribunal, demanding they should only reflect the cost of producing listings. The tribunal delivers its verdict next month, and only then will publishing executives know the true cost of listings magazines. Dr Thomas's figures may look rather different next Christmas.

ANDREW LYCETT

MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Radio Times

Christmas present: *Radio Times* expects a profit

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Continued on next page

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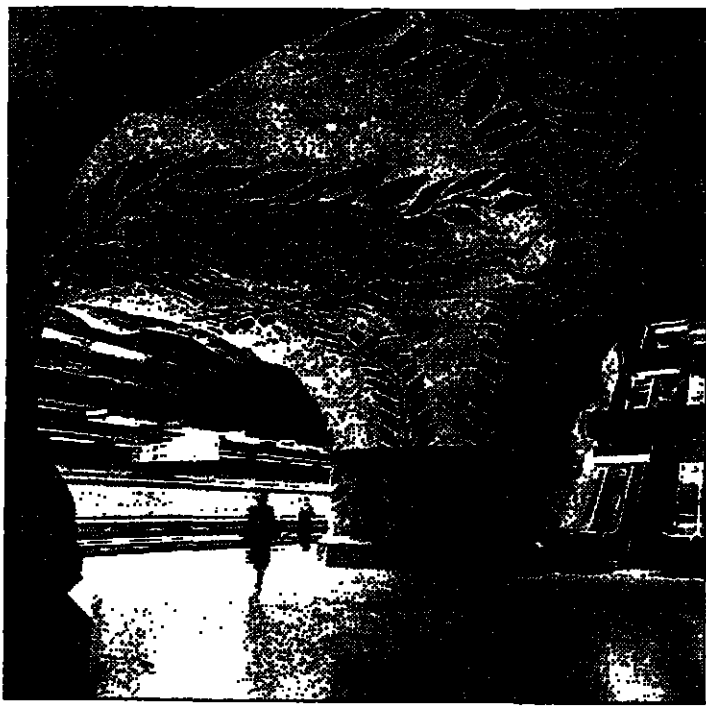
The aesthetic pleasures of our transport systems compare poorly with other countries. Richard Morrison previews a report suggesting how art could brighten commuters' journeys

To a nation as attuned to irony as the British, a report entitled *Travelling Hopefully* surely holds rich comic possibilities. Travelling hopefully? A regular victim of British public transport certainly experiences many and various emotions. Stand at the top of the (traditionally broken) escalator one morning on London Underground's answer to Dante's *Inferno* — the Bank/Monument interchange — and you can read the feelings on the faces of the desk-bound: stoicism, impotent rage, frustration, stress, tiredness, boredom, even revulsion at the sheer squalor of passing twice daily through this corrugated-tin and deconstructed-plasterwork passageway. But faces full of hope? That's a novel idea.

Here is another. Commuters may easily spend a tenth or more of their waking hours on public transport: some 15 per cent of all household expenditure goes on transport. So travel shapes the lives of many to a large degree. Why not lift the weary hearts of passengers by introducing good design, commissioned art, even performance, into the transport environment, so that those hundreds of hours spent annually in transit are not a dress rehearsal for brain-death?

Of course, this is not a novel idea at all: it just seems that way in Britain. And not even always in Britain. Before the second world war London Underground, inspired by the remarkable Frank Pick, developed one of the finest and largest series of commissioned art posters ever known, setting the Tube's walls ablaze with colour, daring and wit. If British transport chiefs today had a fraction of the impresario-like flair of Pick, there would be no need for *Travelling Hopefully* — *A Study of the Arts in the Transport System*, which the Gulbenkian Foundation (UK) launches next week.

The report's authors, Naseem Khan and Ken Worpole, believe that "the great infrastructure of travel is badly in need of a new design and artistic aesthetic".



Art gallery in itself: T-Centralen station, part of Stockholm's underground railway, uses the exposed rock face in its design

They maintain that "simply 'adding on' art to a poor service is no real answer at all". But they add that art which is properly integrated into transport systems can help halt urban decay, attract capital investment, develop "organisational self-respect" and excite the imagination of passengers. These are big claims; do they stand up? In a narrowly functional sense, no. What would most excite the imagination of passengers are trains that run on time, moderate fares and clean carriages. The passenger who has spent 90 minutes on a defective train, trying to reach Shepherd's Bush tube station, will probably not appreciate being told by the authors that "London Transport's sheep cut-outs walking sedately over the entrance have a lightness of heart that acts as a welcome counterweight to the grimness of the world beneath their feet". Similarly, even Eduardo Paolozzi's

greatest fans would think twice about lingering at the otherwise unlovely Tottenham Court Road station to admire his mosaics.

As the authors note, rather plaintively: "It was put to us several times that the terrible King's Cross underground station fire of 1987 had in some ways put an end to underground art schemes for a while, as London Transport hastened to reassure passengers that any spare money would be spent on safety improvements." But any activity which traps millions of people daily for a couple of hours must be seen in a broader context: a nation's spiritual health. Of course British Rail and London Transport are right to make safety paramount, but so are the report's authors right to insist that transport authorities take more trouble to enliven the environments through which so many pass. There are signs that enlighten-



London's pre-war flair: *New Works*, by an artist known as Lightfoot, was part of a 1932 poster on the Piccadilly and District Lines

ment is dawning. The restoration of Liverpool Street Station, more or less successfully integrating its Victorian splendours within new development; the opening of Norman Foster's Stansted Airport terminal; Nicholas Grimshaw's exciting "homage to Brunel" plan for the new train shed at Waterloo: all this is evidence that architects are once again finding ingenious and cheering solutions to the problem of designing a huge transport terminus.

On a smaller scale, British Rail has sponsored over 20 art works in the past two years, from Sue Ridge's footbridge mural at Southampton Central (a kind of Bayeux Tapestry of the city's mercantile history) to glass and ceramics. The British Airports Authority also has budgets and programmes for putting art into its terminals, though its departure lounges still reek of faceless monotony.

Even the much-maligned London Underground has made some efforts. The "Poems on the Underground" scheme, begun in 1986 and run by the Poetry Society since 1989, has been a brilliant success. Anthologies collected of the train walls have sold in thousands. There has even been an attempt in

the last five years to revive, albeit on a relatively small scale, the Underground poster commissioning of the Frank Pick heyday: "Art on the Underground" now commissions six posters each year, chosen, with the ruthless logic of a good signal-box, according to the formula "two avant-garde, two mainstream and two realistic".

But in Britain the use of art to revitalise public transport has barely begun. The Gulbenkian report has special criticism for Britain's gristly coach stations, and for the interiors of British Rail's Inter-City trains: bland and characterless walls, where once there would have been evocative prints of seaside resorts.

Where should we look for our inspiration? The report's authors are particularly impressed by Stockholm's underground: "the world's largest art gallery". It was mostly built in the late 1970s, and each station's design was entrusted to a different artist. Many chose to leave the rock faces exposed, as a spectacular natural backdrop to their own equally spectacular colours and motifs. The effect is of walking into huge, beautiful caves, full of sur-

prises. And then there is the Moscow Metro, that astonishing underground treasure-house of chandeliers, stained glass, statues, marbled halls and soft lights.

Of course, both the Stockholm and the Moscow undergrounds gained from having a strong aesthetic policy in place before building began. The options for most British transport authorities are much more limited. Nevertheless, the Gulbenkian report suggests many ways forward. For example, it wants the Department of Transport to adopt the "per cent for art" scheme whereby, for every pound spent on new projects, a penny would be spent on art commissions. The building of the Channel Tunnel rail terminal at Stratford East alone would guarantee a Golden Age for British sculpture.

The authors would also like to see British Rail experiment with cinema compartments and children's entertainment compartments, and suggest that there is a place for live entertainers, though they do concede that "live performance in trains carries the danger of being an irritant to those who want nothing more than the peace to read their paper or sleep". On the controversial question of

buskers, however, the report is strangely reticent. Perhaps this is because the transport authorities persist in branding buskers as ly-breakers, though busking is clearly flourishing (and often highly entertaining) in every cent London tube station. One day, an imaginative transport authority might legitimise busking, license and organise it, thus transforming the atmosphere of its stations.

We will probably never recapture that sense of excitement about travel that inspired Turner's *Rain, Steam, and Great Railway*, or Dvořák to base his *Seventh Symphony* on the characteristic rhythm of a Czech train in motion, or Philip Larkin to write his greatest poem, *Whistling Weddings*, about a Bank Holiday train journey. But we should not accept that travel must be a soul-deadening chore. In aesthetic terms all of us have been travelling third class. Time for an upgrade.

● *Travelling Hopefully*, published on January 16 by The Gulbenkian Foundation (UK), is available from Illuminations, 47 Chilton St, London NW1 1HY (071-383-4990). £10.

Leading article, page 1

EDITOR

Goldman Sachs is seeking an editor to work in its Equity Research Department in London. The job will involve editing research reports and liaison with analysts, research assistants, typesetters and printers. It will also entail preparation and uploading of documents to electronic delivery systems and interaction with various databases. The ideal candidate will have at least 2-3 years of editorial experience, preferably in the financial/business field, and will have knowledge of desk top publishing systems and other relevant computer packages.

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Unlikely but likeable

Mumbling Geordie with hair by Geldof and undesignated subtle climbs into standard modern police uniform (anorak, jeans, scowl) and sets about solving crimes with no perceptible effect on the clear-up rate. Alienates all corners (ex-wife, superiors, friends). Sounds promising, eh?

And yet... it works! Spender, the Newcastle upon Tyne detective sergeant who would be seen dead in a charm school only if he was raiding it, returned to BBC 1 last night for a new series. And most welcome he is. Not that the plot-lines are any less cliché-ridden than in past television detective yarns, but the writing is taut, the characters are very nearly believable and nobody in it talks in American.

English? I would not go as far as that. But after years of imported Americans — Starsky and Lucy, Cagney and Hutch (there I go again, giving them ideas) — not to mention the quite dreadfully wooden *Spenser for Hire* — the return of the eponymous Spender is at least welcome evidence that the Brits can do these things rather well, as we already know from the peerless Inspector Morse.

God knows what Spender would make of Morse. Probably break his neck, which is what he almost did to his incoming chief superintendent last night. Spender thought he was a terrorist, an understandable error given that the chief super was wearing a suit. That is how you recognise the bad guys in television detective fiction these days: they are the ones in the suits. Insofar as I speak Geordie, what appears to have happened last night is that the new chief super for some



Hair by Geldof? Jimmy Nail is the titular star and sometimes the author of BBC 1's series, *Spender*

reason took a dislike to Spender. I cannot think why: he looked quite fetching in a neck brace. As one of Spender's colleagues pointed out, there is a worse job than being made head of crime prevention and Spender was given it: deputy head of crime prevention.

This was even more boring than sitting in a hotel room guarding the Chancellor of the Exchequer (sly shot of Norman Lamont's eyebrow). That job had involved occupying the room next to the chancellor's, whiling away the time entertaining a mate just out of jail, who arrived in the room and promptly put his ear to the dividing wall. "The prat," he announced. "He's put 9p on a packet of fags."

Spender is full of one-liners, and none the worse for that. The story, as if that matters, has to do with the ex-jailbird getting involved with a suited individual who goes around

firebombing shops. This provides a nice excuse for a camera crew to blow up a few premises in a blighted area of Newcastle.

The firebomber drives a Jeep and luckily Spender has to hand an unmarked police Range Rover, which demonstrates its much-vaunted off-road prowess by sailing off the end of a loading bay and landing on top of the Jeep. Note the juxtaposition: Range Rovers being pricier than Jeeps who says the BBC can't budget?

This first episode was written by Jimmy Nail, who also plays Spender. I find Jimmy Nail a better name for the character than for the star, Spender having about it a somewhat wimpish, middle class aura which is almost the last thing the character actually exudes. Nail starring Jimmy Spender works a lot better.

PETER BARNARD

BRIEFING

Sacred exception

JONATHAN Miller, who announced last year that he would direct no more operas in Britain, is nevertheless returning to the lyric stage London — albeit in unusual circumstances. He is taking charge of a "production" of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in April. The story of Christ Crucifixion will be acted alongside a performance of the music on period instruments, conducted by Paul Goodwin.

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Leading article, page 1

Bijou Bolshoi

DESPITE the glut of Russian ballet companies visiting Britain in recent months, another such tour has been announced. Bolshoi ballerina Natalya Bessmertnova leading a company of dancers on a 14-week British tour that opens at London's Dominion Theatre on April 13. Under the direction of Bolshoi director Yuri Grigorovich, the so-called "Star from the Bolshoi Ballet" will perform two programmes including the second acts of *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* plus a selection of divertissements. The 25-day tour, similar to one in 1991, is designed to bring a taste of the Bolshoi to venues too small to accommodate a full company.

Last chance

WHAT to make of art, and Christianity are the issues at the heart of Lopez Vega's *The Great Pretend* last of the Gate Theatre's excellent season of Spanish plays. With John Strain, Diocletian, a sort of Caelian, a sort of Caligula, a sort of Jesus, a sort of saint of actors, at the poles of the argument, production takes a high political, low behavioural and lightning flashes in thrilling aside. The final performance at the Gate (9.29.0706) is on Saturday, followed by a tour.

ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre and Music
page 16



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10 JANUARY 1992

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America's moratorium on breast implants means an anxious delay for millions of women, Ann Kent reports

The price of playing safe

Jane Fonda may be anxious, as may Dolly Parton, Melanie Griffith, the models Denise Lewis and Iman and a host of other celebrity women who are said to have had breast implants. But the women most affected by the news of America's moratorium on silicone breast implants are those facing mastectomy operations.

Although implants tend to be associated with screen celebrities and women who are prepared to spend at least £2,000 on private operations to improve their shape, thousands of women have implants following cancer surgery every year. These reconstruction operations have helped soften the considerable psychological blow of losing a breast.

On Monday the US Food and Drug Administration was due to make its final decision on the long term future of implants after six months deliberation. But to the disappointment of doctors, and the consternation of millions of women worldwide, it announced a 45 day moratorium while it considered further evidence. This relates to fears that seepage from the silicone gel inside the implant may cause autoimmune or connective tissue disorders.

Although the moratorium is not binding on British plastic surgeons, yesterday it seemed clear that many of them would wait out the 45 days.

No one knows exactly how many British women have had implants, although the number is thought to be about 100,000 over the past 30 years. British experts suggest that 60 per cent of operations here are for reconstruction but Dow-Corning, the American implant manufacturer, which yesterday announced its decision to stop supplying implants worldwide, disagrees. The company says that just over half the implants carried out in Britain are augmentation operations for cosmetic purposes.

Robert Mansel, a professor of surgery at the University of Manchester and a specialist in breast care, says that the availability of reconstructive procedures is one of the most important advances in breast cancer care.

But nearly always, these reconstructive techniques are based on silicone implants, he says. "As far as I know, the evidence the FDA is considering is largely anecdotal. Nevertheless, I think doctors are

honour bound not to put in new implants until the FDA has evaluated the evidence."

Both the insertion and removal of implants is a relatively simple procedure, says Professor Mansel. Augmentation for cosmetic reasons takes about an hour, although reconstruction and reshaping surgery after a mastectomy can take longer.

An alternative form of breast reconstruction is also available, but is a more complex operation involving removing fat and muscle from the abdominal area. It requires considerable skills in plastic surgery and it is unlikely, Professor Mansel says, that it would be widely available.

Andrea Whalley, the director of

The FDA has been very irresponsible over this. It has moved the goalposts, vacillated, and caused a great deal of anxiety

the Breastcare and Mastectomy Association, says the association is advising women that there is no evidence that implants can cause problems, but that they should see their doctor if they are worried.

"Women vary a great deal in their reaction to breast reconstruction," Ms Whalley says. "Some feel they cannot face the world unless they have this operation while others are quite happy with a prosthesis which they can slip into their bra."

John Terry, the managing director of the National Hospital for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery in Bromsgrove, said his privately run institution had performed ten to 15 breast augmentation operations a week until last autumn. Then, following a Granada TV *World in Action* programme in September

which questioned the safety of implants, the numbers dropped to two or three a week.

Since last September one of Mr Terry's patients, in her mid twenties, insisted on having her implant removed.

"This patient had been completely flat chested and the operation had achieved a lovely surgical result. We tried to dissuade her because we felt that the risks of the removal — which are the risks of infection and reaction to anaesthetic which accompany every operation — were much greater than any risks posed by the implant. However, she insisted and she now has two 3cm scars which can't be hidden in the breast fold, because there is no breast fold."

Mr Terry said his 38-year-old wife, Christine, had a breast implant operation ten years ago. "If I thought there was any risk, I would make sure she got them removed. Our medical advisory committee has now decided we have no alternative but to back the advice of the FDA."

Mr Peter Davis, who has an NHS and Harley Street plastic surgery practice, said he planned to consult colleagues about the implant issue.

"I have not had a single patient asking for an implant to be removed, although half a dozen asked if they were safe following the last television programme. I am convinced that implants are as safe as any other product used in surgery."

"I think the FDA has been very irresponsible over this. It has moved the goalposts, vacillated, and caused a great deal of anxiety. But because it is the most powerful drugs administration agency in the world, I think we have to go along with it. Even if the Americans ban breast implants, other countries will make the devices and perform the operations."

Mr Dai Davies, the secretary of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, says: "If silicone was banned, I think we would simply use implants with other fillings. But I don't think there is any evidence that silicone causes any long-term adverse effects."

"When you get hundreds of thousands of people using something, then inevitably some of them will get cancer, get arthritis, get run over. The risks of all those things are quite high for all of us."



Jane Fonda: said to have had breast implants, but British experts do not share American anxiety

A BRIEF HISTORY OF IMPLANTS

● Early breast augmentation techniques in Europe and the US in the 1950s included the dermo-fat graft using a lozenge-shaped piece of flesh from the buttock. But the breast often shrank or became hard.

● Experiments with foam sponges were similarly unsuccessful. In the 1950s, French scientists invented a rubber-compound balloon filled with water or saline. There was a risk of the breast deflating within hours or of the plug later working loose.

● In the early 1960s, Thomas Cronin, an American plastic surgeon, invented the silastic prosthesis, the precursor of today's implants. This comprised a gel inside a firmer "envelope", and had characteristics similar to the real breast. Leakage was still a problem, in this case, of solvents in the gel, which causes painful inflammation in the surrounding tissue. During the next 20 years, modifications appeared, including the particularly successful High Performance Silastic II, produced by Dow-Corning in America. But capsular contraction was a hazard.

● Polyurethane-coated implants, with reduced incidence of contraction, appeared in the late 1980s. Last year, however, the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) questioned the safety of polyurethane-coated MEM and Replikon brands. FDA scientists said the coating could break down in the body into the chemical 2-toluene diamine (TDA), shown to cause cancer in laboratory rats. Surgitek, the manufacturers, have ceased production of the implants.

● Last July, the FDA began its investigation into the safety of all implants, including the textured implant introduced two years ago, in which the silicone envelope itself is textured, instead of having a polyurethane coating, avoiding any risk which may be attached to such a coating.

● Most implants are made in the US, although some are made in France. In America, about 700,000 women have had implants after cancer surgery, as well as 1.3 million for augmentation. The rate is now 135,000 women a year, or one woman in 50. In Britain, expert estimates the number as between 3,000 and 5,000 a year, at an average cost for private patients of £2,500.

LIZ GILL

The decision to remove

Sheila Caine says she was on cloud nine when she was told that she could have a silicone breast implant. "I had just had a mastectomy for breast cancer which was terribly traumatic and made me feel like a freak. I thought the operation would make me normal," she says. Eleven years later she elected to have the implant taken out and last month underwent an operation to remove the silicone from her breast.

"It was the *World in Action* programme in September that made me panic. Getting cancer once is a nightmare, but the possibility of getting the disease twice would be unbearable," says Ms Caine. After seeing the programme she immediately went to her surgeon. He tried to reassure her, telling her that nothing had been proven and providing her with statistics on the success rate of implants. Temporarily reassured, she went home

but soon became haunted again. "I had no medical problems with my implant; it was soft so all was considered well but I couldn't stop thinking about the silicone that could be escaping into my body and the fact that it might be harming me."

"In the end I couldn't cope. I cracked and it had to come out. It was like the going through the trauma of mastectomy all over again. I was back to square one. I feel like a freak and I still don't feel safe. There may be traces of silicone left in my body."

Ms Caine says she wishes she had been able to know about the risks 11 years ago. "Until I saw the *World in Action* programme I had no idea there was any controversy surrounding implants. Now I feel very angry and frustrated as well as worried. Implants have been used for years they must have had some idea of their safety."

Neither the consultant

who carried out her mastectomy, and first suggested she have an implant, nor the consultant who carried out the implant operation mentioned any side effects. She was so excited at the prospect of having the operation that she did not ask. At her annual check-ups with a consultant no one ever mentioned possible ill-effects.

"They probably didn't realise that the silicone might be dangerous," she says. "But someone ought to have carried out intensive studies before they were used. You can't expect the manufacturers and cosmetic surgeons to do it because they are bound to have vested interests."

She feels that the government should carry out intensive research into the implants immediately and supply women with more facts so they know the risks they are taking. She would also like more research carried out on breast cancer. "It causes pain and misery to so many women it should be put at the top of Britain's health agenda. We need to know what causes it and how to prevent it. After all it is the one thing that every woman fears," she says.

What makes the pain harder to bear was that she was disappointed with the results of her breast implant from the beginning. Aesthetically and visually it didn't come up to my expectations. The surgeon said it was an average result," she says.

"I don't know anyone else who has had an implant so I feel very isolated. You can't go around talking about the problem because people wouldn't understand. Yet it has had an huge effect on my life and whatever happens I don't think I will ever stop worrying."

ALICE THOMSON

Holiday danger

SURVIVORS of the fire at the Sheraton Hotel in Cairo two years ago may not have been surprised by the *Holiday Which?* report, published this week, which shows that more than half of holiday hotels in Greece, Spain and Portugal are rated unsafe when it comes to fire safety precautions. The Cairo survivors have worked out their own life-saving techniques — which include carrying torches, hammers for breaking through double-glazed windows and smoke hoods — as well as "walking the course" before retiring, checking fire alarms and complaining if exits are blocked.

The Fire Prevention Association, 140 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4HY (071-506 3757) publishes a hotel fire safety leaflet. *Times* readers can obtain a free copy by sending a large stamped, addressed envelope to the association.

Dowry Environmental and Safety Products, Heathcote Road, Swadlingcote, Derbyshire DE11 9DX (0283-221122) sells smoke alarms for £26.95 each — and a travel pack consisting of a

AND BRIEFLY

leather wallet containing a smoke hood, portable smoke alarm, torch and distress alarm. It costs £78.22, plus Vat and postage. For further details, contact the company.

Kitsch in synch



Dish: Cynthia Payne

TOMORROW at 8pm an auction of items in execrable taste will take place at Liberty of Regent Street, London. The auction, for the benefit of the Centrepoint charity, will include a garish golfing sweater from Ronald Corbett, an ornate sweet dish from Cynthia Payne, a pair of plastic earrings from Julie

Goodyear (Bet Lynch in *Coronation Street*), a red knitted tie from Bruce Forsyth and a pink floral teapot from George Melly. The auction is by invitation only and is linked to the *Signs of the Times* television series (BBC 2, Sunday evenings at 8.10pm), and to the book *Signs of the Times: A Portrait of the Nation's Taste* (Corgi, £9.95), which is also being launched at Liberty tomorrow.

Unintended

VIDEO rental shops are cashing in on a new idea from the United States — renting video games for Sega and Nintendo "Game Boy" computers on a daily basis. With these games costing about £30 each, and children tiring of them quickly, it can make good sense to rent. But retailers and manufacturers of these expensive packages are not too pleased with the idea. A spokesman for Nintendo says that such rental is not authorised and Lesley Wilkins, Sega's marketing executive, says: "From October 1, 1991, we advertised that we would prosecute anyone doing it." The Federation Against Software Theft says:

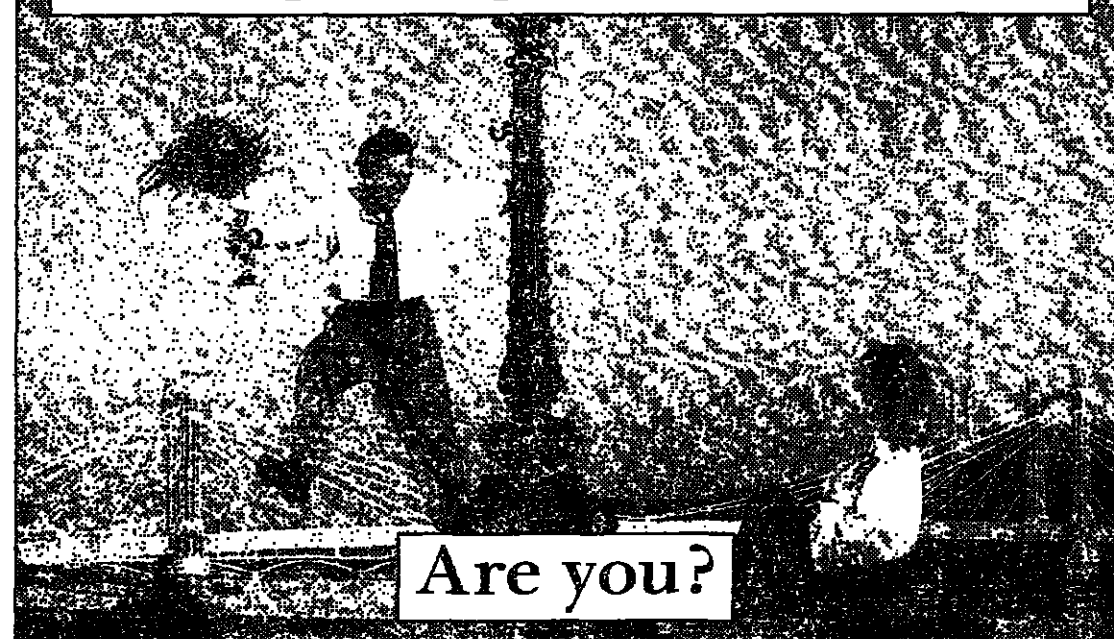
"It was only in August 1989 that the law was introduced which enabled a copyright owner of a computer programme to control software rental. Unlike the film and video industry, to whom no such right was granted." A spokesman adds: "But each company is free to make its own decisions, and it's possible that some rental agreements have been arranged."

Slim prices

ONE of the more surprising January sales is that of Charbonnel & Walker, Royal chocolatiers, which has reduced its cocoa-dusted, dark chocolate cream truffles from £16 to £10 a pound — "the first time we've done such a thing in 116 years" — a spokesman says. The truffles should last about six weeks, by which time it will be possible to place your order for the company's sticky chocolate "kisses" in the shape of female lips, which will be available from the beginning of February at £14 a pound in milk, plain and white chocolate. These can be sent mail order anywhere in Britain in time for Valentine's Day for £3.50 or, for varying postal charges, anywhere in the world.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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SUNALLIANCE
LIFE & PENSIONS

Victims of a trying system

Jury service is a duty many people cannot afford, argues Frances Gibb

Jurors, those citizens traditionally perceived as the cornerstone of the legal system, appear to be revolting. Large numbers failed to turn up this week to do their stint at the Old Bailey, preferring to take an extended Christmas break. Another 200 at the same court had already succeeded in being excused from jury service — again pleading Christmas holiday arrangements.

The Lord Chancellor's department was reduced to scurrying around neighbouring courts, locating surplus jurors, and bussing them to the Old Bailey to bring at least some of the idle courts into operation. It was, the officials insist, a one-off occurrence, but how disillusioned is the ordinary citizen with jury service? Do people dread the buff envelope summoning them to attend a certain court on a fixed day?

With the number of long trials on the increase, jury service is no longer a minor disruption of ordinary life, willingly undertaken in the interests of justice. It has become a significant burden, causing costly upheaval at home and at work, sometimes with harsh consequences for businesses and even personal relationships.

Jurors are summoned for a nominal period of two weeks. But in many cases they may be required for longer. What of those who end up on a fraud trial lasting several months such as the Blue Arrow/County NatWest prosecution? Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, recently warned of the dangers of the "megatrial" which has begun to afflict the legal system in the past five years.

He spoke of seven criminal trials being heard or to be heard in London alone, due to last between one and six months. Nor is the "megatrial" confined to criminal cases: he cited some 20 civil cases also estimated to run for more than a month. Lord Lane's particular concern is with the strain on judges and the loss of judicial manpower, but at least, one may argue, they are carrying out their chosen work and are well paid. Although jurors may claim up to £38.50 a day for loss of earnings up to the 11th day (and after that up to £77 a day), as well as allowances, this is often inadequate.

The Juries Act of 1974 provides a long list of statutory exemptions from jury service, including a wide range of professionals: lawyers, doctors, clergymen, prison officers, MPs, military and naval personnel. What, though, of mothers with small children, for instance? Or the small businessman? It is a perennial criticism of the jury system that it unrepresentative of the population, favouring housewives and the unemployed.

As trial lengths increase, so will the range of people excusing themselves from jury service. In the Blue Arrow/County NatWest trial, more than 100 potential jurors (two in three) excused themselves when confronted with a list of questions such as: had holidays been booked, whether they were pregnant, whether they had important appointments during the year or were taking examinations.

Furthermore, there is the frustration of sitting about in court for two weeks, for perhaps two minor cases of theft in which the evidence may not amount to proof. In my own experience of jury service, long periods of boredom were relieved by three such cases, involving, in one instance, the theft of two bottles of milk.

The Bar has recently highlighted the lack of facilities in many courts for their users, including jurors. And jurors tend to be herded about by court officials, like a class of schoolchildren. "A humiliating business" is how one juror, Laia Spence, described her experience in *The Times* last summer. "You wait until you are told to go upstairs, then wait again until it is time to file in, in the correct order of course, into court."

The court usher tells you when to stand, the judge tells you when to retire. The usher then decides whether you may go downstairs for a cup of coffee or wait in the retiring room.



Lord Lane: warned of the dangers of long trials

Such experiences are probably commonplace, but because of the current ban on research into juries, little is known of what jurors make of their task. Next week, however, the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice will announce a survey into the workings of crown courts in England and Wales. As part of this, jurors will for the first time be asked their opinions of the whole experience, from the performance of the judge and the lawyers to how much they understood of the evidence.

This may lift the lid on how widespread dissatisfaction is. In the meantime, some action is in hand to improve the juror's lot. The Lord Chancellor's department is revising the explanatory leaflet sent to jurors with the summons, and is considering showing them a video about the court process.

The government also intends to end the juror's overnight hotel stay — although ironically this is considered by many jurors to be their only perk. Much more needs to be done. A charter for the courts to improve facilities, as proposed by the Bar, would ease the juror's plight. However, the problem of "megatrials" is more complex: it is already prompting calls to resurrect the proposal of the Roskill committee to scrap juries in long fraud trials altogether.

The Royal Commission, in its journey into the criminal justice system, must take heed of the jury. There is a real risk that jury service, which should command wide respect as a bulwark of the English legal system, will become derided and boycotted, to be shored up by an unrepresentative few who either lack the clout to escape it or who have nothing better to do.

Conor Cruise O'Brien says Israel has no wish to scupper the peace talks by deportations

Syria's threat to peace

Israel's decision to deport 12 Palestinians in response to the murder of a Jewish settler in Gaza last week has been condemned by the UN Security Council and many governments. The Palestinian leadership described the action as "a continuation of Israel's destructive policy designed to torpedo the peace process".

How then should Israel have responded to the murder of Doron Shorshan, the latest in a series of terrorist attacks against Israel? An American State Department spokesman last week had a ready, and formally impeccable, answer to that question: "Israel should bring the perpetrators to justice." This is a good specimen of the kind of advice that is easier to give than to take. People in America do not, that it is not always altogether easy to bring to justice the perpetrators of terrorist crimes. The authorities usually know, or think they know, the organisation which is behind any given terrorist act. But they rarely know which individuals were responsible, and it is individuals rather than organisations who have to be put on trial.

I have no doubt that if the Israeli authorities knew who killed Doron Shorshan, and had evidence to prove it, they would put those people on trial and secure their conviction. This would have been both popular in Israel and acceptable to the international community. I infer from the procedure actually followed that the Israeli authorities do not know, and do not believe they ever will know who killed Doron Shorshan.

Let us then rephrase our original question. Granted that the murderers of Doron Shorshan are unknown, how should Israel have reacted to the murder? Bear in mind that to do nothing is not an acceptable option. While outside opinion ignores the Arab terrorist campaign, and interests itself only in Israeli responses to it, people in Israel itself are angry and apprehensive and demand a more effective response from the authorities. In such circumstances,

one possible response is the frame-up: grab members of a particular ethnic group — in this case, Palestinian Arabs — beat confessions out of them, fake corroborative evidence, and then claim to have "brought the perpetrators to justice".

Deportation of individuals may be contrary to the Geneva Convention but it is both more decent and more humane than the course followed, under similar circumstances and pressures in Britain, in the convictions of alleged terrorists following the Birmingham and Guildford bombings.

I don't believe for a moment that Mr Shamir deported the 12 with the intention of disrupting the peace talks. He was responding, as every politician has to do, to the expectations and the pressures of his own community. And it is not at present at all in Israel's interests that these talks should break down. Apart from Israel's standing need to be on as good terms as possible with America, Israel itself can hope to win something precious from these talks: self-rule for

the populations of the West Bank and Gaza, along lines resembling those already proposed by Mr Begin and by Mr Shamir, with no more intifada. It is true that Israel will not uproot Jewish settlements in the territories, will not give up East Jerusalem or its strategic fortifications along the Jordan escarpment, and will require access to the territories by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF), both for supplies to the fortification garrisons and for protection of the settlements.

Obviously, the talks may eventually break down over any of these issues. But they may not. What is now being discussed is, from the Palestinian point of view, an interim arrangement. The word interim has positive possibilities. No Palestinians could agree to give up their claim to Jerusalem, but the Palestinians who are now negotiating may eventually agree to interim arrangements which do not — for the moment — apply to Jerusalem. They have a strong incentive to do so. They represent the Arab population of

the West Bank and Gaza. That population wants an end both to the policing of their areas by the IDF and to the (consequential) intifada. And the negotiators know that they can't hope to achieve that if they also insist on winning all the rest, including Jerusalem. So a compromise is not impossible: both sides are sincere in wanting one.

A compromise, however, will not be the end of the matter. If a compromise is reached, the extremist Palestinian groups — including the PFLP and the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas — will make a determined and ferocious effort to destroy both the compromise and the Palestinians who concluded it. At present these extremist groups are backed by Syria, which makes them exceedingly dangerous.

It would be unwise to conclude a compromise between Israel and the Palestinian moderates until Syria can be detached from the extremists. So the American Secretary of State, James Baker, should give priority to persuading Mr Shamir to talk to President Assad about the Golan Heights. Falling agreement over these, the success of the present negotiations could result in a shambles rather than peace.

Float sterling, sink Labour

Nicholas Ridley says we must put our own interests before Europe's

The government faces a cruel dilemma. One of the central planks in its policy is membership of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, and making the resulting "discipline" stick. This was supposed to change fundamentally the British character, so that we would achieve higher productivity and lower wage increases. It was a question of seeing it through, of grit, of determination. It was said to be the only way to kill inflation.

Membership of the ERM has indeed killed inflation, but in my opinion it has overkilled it, and inflation is now zero or even negative. It is starting to strangle the British economy. The dilemma is whether to jettison membership of the ERM or imperil the domestic economy.

Few people believe that economic recovery is about to start, and many believe the recession is getting worse: there is a feeling in some quarters that we may be on the verge of a real slump. This is not surprising. There used to be a policy of controlling the money supply, using the monetary indicators — M0 for narrow money, and M4 for broad money — to signal the state of the economy. This was the policy that brought inflation down from 22 per cent in 1979 to 3½ per cent in 1983.

In the year to October 1991, M4 grew by only 6.3 per cent, and M0 by only 2.6 per cent. With inflation running at about 5 per cent over the same period, the implications are that the money supply is not growing, even that it is contracting. This suggests that the economy will decline further unless policy is changed.

The reason the money supply is inadequate is that the real interest rate is so high. The rate of inflation at the moment may be around zero. For this purpose it is no good looking at the Retail Prices Index, for it measures changes in prices

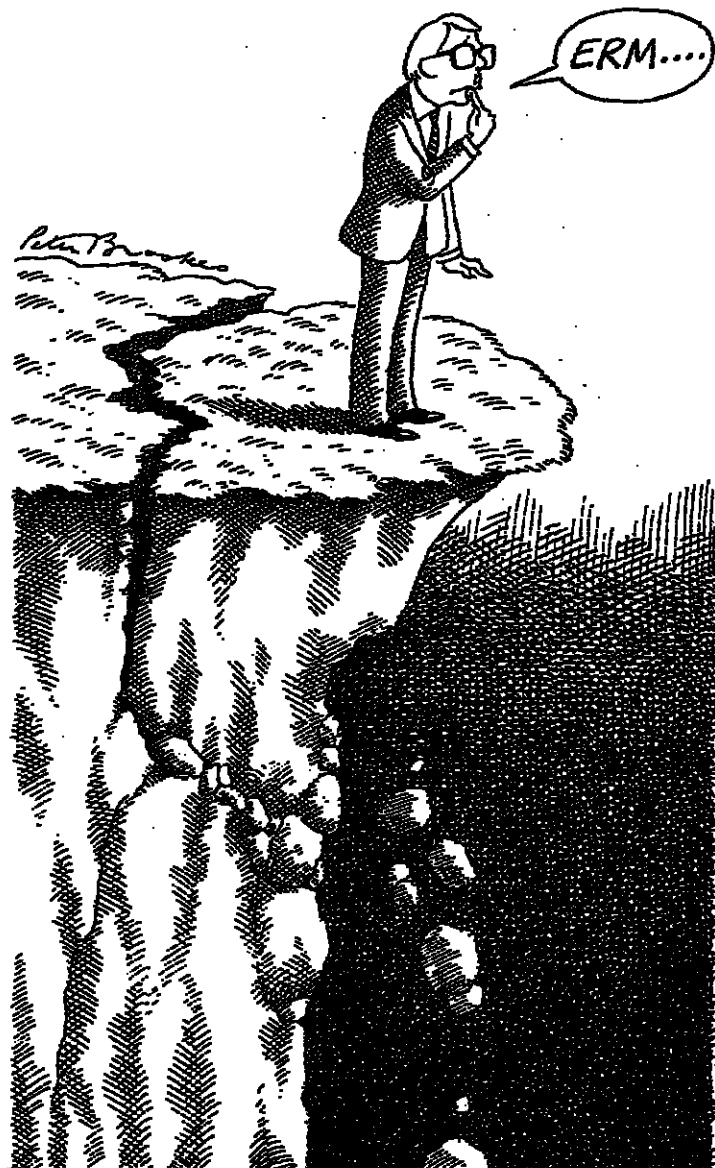
over the past 12 months. What matters in terms of the investors' perception of the cost of borrowing money is the rate of inflation over the next 12 months. On that basis, the real rate of interest may now be higher than 10 per cent.

The real rate of interest is as high as this in order to maintain the pound's position in the ERM. High interest rates will hold the value of the pound up temporarily by attracting investors to take advantage of it, but in time the pound will have to find its true value in relation to the other ERM currencies. That true value is mainly the result of changes in relative labour costs between us and the other ERM members.

For instance, over the 1980s our unit labour costs increased by 23 per cent more than Germany's, and the pound fell by 25 per cent against the mark. Alas, over the past two years, British labour costs have increased by about 10 per cent more than the other ERM countries. This indicates that the pound may have lost about 10 per cent of its value compared to the mark over that period. The Treasury predicts an improvement of about 3½ per cent in our relative unit labour costs over 1992, but that is nothing like enough to compensate for the previous rise.

The kernel of the argument for membership of the ERM was that it would exert a "discipline" on business, forcing it to contain its labour costs to the same sort of increases as the other members. The weakness of that scheme is what happens if it doesn't contain these costs.

We can now see the result: we haven't contained our costs, and we have entered a deepening recession. Businesses face the twin hurdles of a real interest rate which is too high and an exchange rate which makes them uncompetitive in world markets. For it to come right, Britain would need to cut its labour costs probably by



some 10 per cent over 1992, which would require falling wages and increased productivity. This really would be an economic miracle.

Our problems are not caused by a world trend that we cannot buck. Some other countries are indeed in recession, but the world scene affects us only if we make maintenance of a certain value of the pound our main priority. If we do

not, we can choose between various combinations of exchange and interest rates to suit our domestic economy.

As Karl Otto Pöhl, then president of the Bundesbank, once rightly said: "Interest rates should be set according to domestic monetary conditions, and the exchange rate should be left to go where it will." An option remains: for the government to put the

domestic economy first, and forget about the ERM.

Such an option is described as a "quick fix", or the "humiliation" of devaluation (or worse still) as betraying our commitment to Europe. So be it. I desperately want the government to be re-elected, so a "quick fix" would not worry me. Nor do I find floating exchange rates "humiliating": it is no more so than the floating price of ICI shares is humiliating when they go down. Our obligation to the British people must take precedence over our obligations to Europe.

What if we were members of a single European currency? In that case, it would make no sense to advocate a change in exchange rates or even in interest rates. Both would be impossible, and for all time. There would be no available cure for recession: at least there is one now. How right John Major was to reserve our position on joining such an ill-starred venture.

Logically, it is not possible to see the defects of a single currency, as John Major clearly has, and yet not see the warning signs in the operation of 15 months' membership of the ERM. We must leave the ERM — not just settle for a realignment within it. To do so would merely store up trouble for the future.

This is the way for the government to be re-elected. Both Labour and Liberal Democrats are hooked not only on dutiful membership of the ERM, but on a complete surrender to the single currency. The British people desperately want the economy to recover, and they smell trouble in further Brussels control of our economy. The government could saw off the limb upon which both opposition parties are perched, and at a stroke restore confidence in an economic recovery, and in hopes of our retaining control of our economy. The way to do it, as little Finland has recently done, is to announce that we are cutting loose from the ERM forthwith.

The author is Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Since Franklin D. Roosevelt neglected to observe that the only thing we have to worry about is worry itself, you can tell that he did not do his own unpacking. It is one of the great perks of high office: you get off the plane, and the next time you see your bits and bobs they are all stashed neatly away, shoes here, shirts there, soiled stuff in the laundry-basket, and anything crawling out of the suitcase dealt with by a civil servant. And if there is any worrying about it to be done, it is the civil servant who lies awake staring at the ceiling.

Lacking, however, a *chef de ménage*, I returned from France yesterday to do the stuff with the shoes and shirts myself and it all went well enough until the suitcase was empty, at which point it stopped going well because the suitcase was not empty at all. I discovered this when, having finished stashing, I went to shut it. There was a thing crawling out of it. The thing so far had only a couple of legs over the edge, but after a bit it had a lot of legs over the edge, plus a fair number of wings and antennae, and after that it crawled down the outside of the suitcase and began examining the carpet. The carpet threw it. You could tell that from the antennae. The thing was worried.

It was not alone.

In the old days, of course, before we had whole-carth, lead-free, foxphile, free-range, fun-bunnings, caring organic New Men, I should not have

worried at all. If a thing which had crawled into my suitcase in France had crawled out of it again in England, I should have stepped on it. My sole concern would have been, quite literally, that for it used to be a tricky and unsavoury business, scraping insect detritus off your shoes. You had to hop somewhere that had a knife and a tap, and a horrible, frog-like, hybrid, invulnerable to natural enemy or pesticide, which would soon, in its unstoppable billions, proceed to munch our entire landscape. I may not understand much about chaos theory, but any fool knows that Pandora's box is full of horsehoes-mails.

What alternative, then? Pop it in a matchbox and repatriate it, contrary to God knows what lurking Maastricht footnote? Worse, have it expire en route, and find myself up before the Hague break on a Hydra-headed charge of causing unnecessary suffering to an illegal export deprived of political asylum and, furthermore, contravening European regulations regarding the cross-Channel mailing of meat, possibly infected with Mad Insect Disease?

Twenty-four hours on, the thing is in a jar in the kitchen, with a lot of English grass. It is impossible to tell whether it has eaten any of it, though it seems happy enough, but neither of us is any closer to a solution. And yes, I did consider dialling the London Zoo, but the caring finger froze after three digits. They have enough worries of their own.

would it find nourishment to its liking, or slowly starve? And if it did adapt itself to English tucker, would it find a mate, or more around in celibate gloom until it died, alone and unfulfilled? And if it did find some domestic bug susceptible to its Gallic charm, would that be any better? Might my uninformal pandering not result in some horrible, frog-like, hybrid, invulnerable to natural enemy or pesticide, which would soon, in its unstoppable billions, proceed to munch our entire landscape? I may not understand much about chaos theory, but any fool knows that Pandora's box is full of horsehoes-mails.

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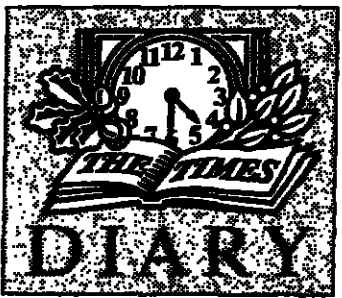
Paper round

THE addition of the two newest members to the exclusive club of newspaper barons has confirmed Labour's worst fears: that the Maxwell newspapers will fall into the hands of wealthy Tory supporters. The Barclay brothers, David and Frederick, who this week bought *The European*, maintain a low public profile. Yet privately the two have close connections in the very highest Tory circles.

Last year it was the brothers who solved Mrs Thatcher's housing problem with a short-term lease on her five-storey house in Chester Square. They had been introduced to her by Sir Tim Bell, the former prime minister's favourite PR man, who helped run all three election campaigns under her leadership. The brothers own 17 per cent of Bell's umbrella company, Chime Communications, and Alan Chamberlain, managing director of *The European*, is also on Bell's board.

One of Bell's companies, Lowe Bell Communications, is acting as a consultant to several of the emerging East European democracies, where *The European* will no doubt be hoping to build circulation.

This is not the Barclay brothers' first foray into the world of newspapers: they unsuccessfully bid for the Express group several years ago. But the brothers' acquisition of *The European* has worried leading Labour party supporters. The broadcaster Geoffrey Goodman, a former assistant editor of the *Daily Mirror*, while glad the title has been saved, says: "This strengthens the fear which exists at the very highest level of the Labour party about the future of the Maxwell papers. It is a real source of political anxiety."



When the V&A postponed its "Art of Death" exhibition a year ago due to the Gulf war, many felt it was being ludicrously oversensitive. The exhibition finally opened today, and a sneak preview yesterday explained why the museum delayed. The top prize for gore goes to an "ecorché", an 18th-century plaster cast of a flogged, skinned, eyeless and armless criminal used as a model for Royal Academy students to draw. Nigel Llewellyn, the curator, enthuses: "We are repressed about death and no one today would produce art from death. It used to be more of a spectator sport." The exhibition sounds irresistible come half-term.

Whitehall farce

THE Soviet Union may have disappeared but its name lives on in Whitehall, where the Foreign Office continues to run an unrecognised Soviet department. Mandarins specialising in Russia, Ukraine and the other republics continue to work for the Soviet department. The wheels of diplomacy grind slowly. Even the three Baltic states, although they have their own "desks", still remain within its aegis.

The FO is thinking hard about making the changes, and Sir Bryan Cartledge, Britain's man in

Moscow from 1985 to 1988, says: "It could be like the Eastern European department, which is divided into country desks. The Central Asian republics will be different, and Ukraine could well fit more naturally into the East Europe department."

Nor has British diplomatic representation in the republics been finalised, three of which remain unrecognised. Kirghizia and Tajikistan have still not submitted the formal documents that would result in recognition. Georgia, which has not joined the new commonwealth, remains a long way from recognition.

Notes and queries

THE classical top ten published on the letters page opposite celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. David Chesterman has been submitting his chart of the symphonies most often performed in

No, the 5th is 2nd
The 41st is 1st.



London to *The Times* since 1952. "The top spot has only ever been shared between Beethoven and Mozart, and 1991 was only the third year in which Mozart displaced his rival. But Beethoven is a fighter and I wouldn't be surprised if he returns to the top again in 1992." The biggest change over

40 years, says Chesterman, is the emergence of Mahler. "Twenty-five years ago you would never have seen him anywhere near the list." Patriots will be pleased to learn that the rising star is Vaughan Williams. He just missed this year's list, coming 11th, but over the next 12 months is well placed to become the only Englishman to make the top ten in four decades.

Courting Militant

NEIL KINNOCK will not be best pleased to learn that a member of his front bench is representing two members of Militant in the courts. Paul Boateng, the barrister and member of Labour's treasury team is defending the pair on charges of assault and public disorder following a town hall demonstration in east London.

This raises the interesting question of Labour front-benchers doing two jobs. "He does not work in court every week. Politics comes first," says his office. Boateng's immediate boss, John Smith, also still occasionally does his legal gown. "He has not worked in court for a couple of years," says his office, "but he likes to keep his hand in." Politics, after all, can be a risky business.

Plácido Domingo did not pull out of the planned new year's eve gala concert in the Kremlin as reported in the *daily* last week. The concert was cancelled by the promoters. So keen was the tenor to sing in Moscow that even after the event was cancelled Domingo was still insisting that he would make the trip, regardless of the collapse in the arrangements. His attorney and agent had to talk him out of the visit. But Domingo still has ambitions to sing in Moscow this year. Any future plans for him to do so will, of course, be reported here first.



AFTER GAMSAKHURDIA

From Brutus to Bolingbroke, regicides have claimed the excuse of a higher morality. The taint of their crime stained even those usurpers that history judged kindly as men of principle and effective rulers. In Georgia, the man deposed in the name of democracy by a motley coalition of intellectuals, liberal politicians and undisciplined armed bands had betrayed the trust placed in him as a patriot and defender of human rights, democracy and a free economy. Yet Zviad Gamsakhurdia was elected president by an overwhelming majority only seven months ago. His opponents will be hard pressed to make a convincing case that violence was justified to force him from office. However, eroded Mr Gamsakhurdia's credibility had become, Georgia's new rulers have yet to acquire any of their own.

Ugly as it has been, the battle for power has so far resembled a medieval tussle between warlords rather than a civil war. But Mr Gamsakhurdia's brand of nationalism, verging on racism, had already done so much to polarise Georgian society and destroy trust between communities that this messy dénouement can only make a start back on the road to democracy extraordinarily difficult. Rebuilding confidence in the possibility of pluralist politics will be hard after the trauma Georgians have experienced since last May, when they believed that they were triumphantly on course to re-establish the independent democratic state of 1918-21, before the Red Army compelled their adherence to the Soviet Union.

Mr Gamsakhurdia had earned his reputation as a doughty lifelong campaigner for both national independence and human rights. His electoral platform of multiparty democracy and a free market could hardly be faulted. Yet even before seeking confirmation as president by universal mandate, he had begun to curb the press, had made it a jailable offence to insult the president, and had threatened to deprive those who voted against an independent Georgia of citizenship or the right to own land.

Intolerant from the first of Georgian minorities such as the South Ossetians and Abkhazis, he became equally so of all dissent.

branding democratic opponents as KGB agents and "enemies of the people". Georgian was set against Georgian, degrading political life to the level of mutual vilification and random violence of recent weeks. The severest charge against Mr Gamsakhurdia is not of specific acts of censorship or the jailing of opponents, or even his strengthening of state controls over the economy in order to increase his own power. It is the damage his paranoid authoritarianism has inflicted on faith in democracy itself.

The immediate priority is a return to the rule of law, with the swift relinquishing of power to a provisional government by the controversial soldiers of fortune leading the new ruling military council. Earlier, they promised civilian rule, a new constitution and elections within six months. The shooting by their gunmen at unarmed demonstrators in Tbilisi yesterday underlines the urgency of holding them to their word.

The chances are that most Georgians, whose skill in prospering amid the rottenness of the communist system was legendary, want nothing better than to get their inherently prosperous but now shattered country back to work. Just as there was nothing inevitable about the political mess they have had to put up with since May, there is no reason why the long-delayed market reforms should not now begin. In a group united by little else but determination to oust Mr Gamsakhurdia, the best qualified to start them off is Tengiz Sigua, the former and now provisional prime minister who resigned last August in protest against the president's dictatorial tendencies and failure to free the economy, and who was subsequently forced into hiding to escape arrest.

Mr Sigua has called for national "reconciliation and reconciliation". That must embrace a fair deal for Georgia's minorities, scrupulous respect for the rule of law and early, free, elections — including reforms of local government, now in the grip of Mr Gamsakhurdia's handpicked prefects. Firm moves in all these directions should be key conditions for obtaining the international acceptance and assistance the new government will be anxious to obtain.

CAUTIOUS NOT CALLOUS

After the downfall of the Ceausescu regime two Christmas-ago, heartrending pictures of Romania's 100,000 orphaned or abandoned children moved many in Britain to passing pity, some to drastic action. Hundreds of British couples, even, volunteered themselves as adoptive parents.

Some visited Romania several times, faced months of uncertainty, delays and frustrations from local and British bureaucracy and not inconsiderable expense — including bribes demanded by Romanian officials. And beyond the fringe of these barely legitimate practices there were rumours of cases where babies neither orphaned nor abandoned were "bought" for adoption from their Romanian parents.

In some instances, couples exasperated by British reluctance to approve a Romanian adoption have even smuggled their child into Britain, facing the British authorities, if they find out, with an appalling dilemma. Either the child — now British in Romanian law — is sent back, or a flagrant breach of British regulations has to be winked at.

Any society which cares passionately about the interests of children will have passionate disagreements about them. Not surprisingly, yesterday's proposals for tighter control of adoptions from such countries as Romania will fail to satisfy everybody. Though they are put forward in what is described as a discussion paper, the remarks yesterday from Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, indicate that the government favours more rather than less restriction. Painful though this may be, she is right.

Mrs Bottomley thinks those who bring a child into the country for adoption without fulfilling the legal requirements, for instance, should be guilty of a criminal offence. And the conditions for approving inter-country adoption should be the same as, not easier than, those applied to domestic adoption. Rather than dismissing this principle as putting more red tape in the way of compassion, the debate needs to be conducted with a realistic regard for what is actually at stake. Hard cases may make bad

law, but where inter-country adoption is concerned, every case is likely to be hard.

No matter how unselfish the motives of the would-be adoptive parents, this sort of international transaction clearly cries out for proper regulation, both in Romania and by responsible agencies in the likely receiving countries. The Romanian government has already intervened in two ways: by raising the standards of child care in Romania's many orphanages and institutions (with Western help), and by introducing new and stricter rules governing adoption itself. Given the relatively small numbers who are likely to be adopted abroad — over the past 18 months the total may not be much over 5,000 — the overwhelming priority for the welfare of Romania's parentless children has to be the improvement of the physical and emotional quality of their care in Romania itself.

Though a Romanian orphan's needs may be great, there is merit in Mrs Bottomley's refusal to lower British standards in order to ease its adoption by British parents. The approval of parents as suitable for adoption takes sensitive discernment, which in turn needs time and skill; and the greater potential mismatch involved in inter-racial and inter-country adoptions makes them among the more difficult cases. The emotional pain and injury of a mistake can be cruel and lasting; in adoption, there is much to be said for erring always on the side of caution. When society takes on the role of a regulator of adoption, it takes on a duty to the child to vet the suitability of adopting parents, a duty it does not have in the case of natural parents.

Like inter-racial adoption, inter-country adoption can lead to lasting fulfillment for parents and child. To prohibit it on dogmatic grounds would be as much a mistake as to abandon all precaution. But Mrs Bottomley is surely right that a lifelong step of such vast consequences must always be measured and careful. Adoption can never be an instant solution to an immediate social problem, no matter how pressing and tragic.

TRAVELLING ART

Robert Louis Stevenson may have claimed to be travelling "for travel's sake", but he was pottering happily through France with a donkey, not braving the Bakerloo at 8.40. Part of his "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive" has been borrowed for the title of a new report on art and public transport, to be published by the Gulbenkian Foundation (UK) next week. It calls for better design of equipment and buildings and more art on stations, trains and buses to enliven the tedium of public transport.

Britain's public transport has a morale problem: that of its passengers, which is dangerously low. On late and crowded services their senses are stimulated only negatively: by dirty platforms or graffiti-strewn bus stops, smelly stations, maudlin announcements and poor food. Their travelling lives could be enhanced by art: originals or posters on display on platforms and in trains and buses, music to listen to, interesting words to read.

The Gulbenkian report advocates a "per cent for art" scheme, whereby a penny in every pound spent on new projects would go towards art to enhance them. It also suggests, imaginatively, cinema and children's entertainment compartments on trains. Given how successful the small-scale "Poems on the Underground" project has been in London — the anthology of those

displayed in Tube carriages has already gone into its second print run — the thrust is clearly there. "Art on the Underground" also provides a tiny bonus by commissioning six originals a year for the posters that fill the spaces between the ads.

Why cannot Londoners enjoy life-size replicas of statues such as those that grace the Louvre Metro stop in Paris, or exhibitions like that on the history of Paris at Hôtel de Ville? Or British Rail passengers, something to replace the pretty landscape photographs that used to be on display in each compartment? The only artistic pleasure most passengers get now is from buskers who, absurdly, are illegal. Last year the British Transport Police prosecuted about 200, cautioned another 850, and moved on many thousands more. Did they bother to ask the passengers? The melody of a saxophone echoing from the far end of a Tube tunnel stirs an uplift of spirits rare on the Underground.

The Times has won the approval of many London commuters by printing examples of fine writing on Tube posters: people waiting for trains congregate around them. British public transport has the most captive of audiences. They could be voracious customers for artistic endeavour. Public transport could become, if not quite a pleasure, at least less of an ugly and tedious ordeal.

Coming to terms with shoot to kill

From Mr S. D. Hall-Jones

Sir, There is no such thing as a shoot-to-kill policy. The policy decision comes in authorising the use of small arms in the first place. Once, however, that policy has been decided, for an armed member of the police or for that matter the security forces in Northern Ireland, there is no choice between shoot to kill and shoot to do anything else. Whoever coined the phrase "shoot to kill" was certainly not small-arms trained.

Even if it were possible, as Mr Nicholas Angel (letter, January 6) suggests, to aim at a "non-vital" part of the body in the split second available to a police officer or soldier faced with an armed or apparently armed gunman, hitting him in the leg or arm is not going to stop him squeezing the trigger. Nor does a hit on a limb mean that the gunman won't die.

It is the concept of "wounding" a gunman to stop him firing which is the stuff of cowboy fiction. The only point of aim which will achieve a reasonable certainty of immediate disablement is the centre of the gunman's body, often, in the time available, using rough alignment. Sadly, such a point of aim is inevitably fatal, but there can be no other.

The use of force in the circumstances which existed on January 1 (report, January 2) is governed by section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967. During my time on the army legal staff in Northern Ireland we wrestled long and hard with the relationship between that section of the Act and the use of weapons by law-enforcement officers.

It is utterly unrealistic to expect an armed police officer to wait for muzzle flame before adjudging

whether the weapon is real or replica. In fact, if he had endangered his life or that of others by not opening fire, I would expect the officer to have been disciplined.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
STEPHEN HALL-JONES,
3 King's Bench Walk,
Ground Floor (left),
Temple, EC4A,
January 6.

From Dr L. W. Hall

Sir, The suggestion of Dr D. W. Green (letter, January 6) that police might fire missiles to inject drugs such as morphine into anyone threatening them with a weapon is quite unreasonable. My own experience is that dart guns are nowhere near as accurate as conventional firearms, so their use would greatly reduce the chances of any police marksman reliably hitting the target.

Moreover, even if the person were to be hit and the injection made into a vein (the most direct route of administration) a minimum of 15 to 20 seconds would elapse before the subject became affected — long enough for an accurately aimed shot from any real firearm possessed by the subject to kill or wound a policeman.

If, as is much more likely to happen, the injection were to be intramuscular, several minutes would elapse before the effects of the drug became apparent.

Yours faithfully,
L. W. HALL,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Clinical
Veterinary Medicine,
Madingley Road, Cambridge,
January 6.

Classical top ten

From Mr David Chesterman

Sir, Analysis of all symphonies, or movements from them, played during 1991 in London's Royal Albert Hall, Festival, Barbican and Queen Elizabeth halls and at St John's Smith Square, shows that Mozart, predictably in his bicentennial year, is top with 67 while Beethoven musters 53.

Haydn rises to third place with 33, Mahler has a fraction over 26, while Brahms and Dvorak are equal fifth with 24 apiece. Prokofiev (17), in his centenary year, makes his debut in the top ten, having enjoyed a complete cycle of symphonies at the Barbican and Festival halls.

Tchaikovsky scores 15 and Shostakovich 14. After discussion with eminent musicologists I cannot allow the latter's Chamber symphony, which is merely a transcription of his

eighteenth string quartet. Bruckner, Schubert and Sibelius are equal tenth with ten each.

The only changes in the identities of the top ten since 1990 are the inclusion in 1991 of Prokofiev and Dvorak (in the latter case a spectacular rise from 11 to 24). On the downgrade is Schubert, dropping from 20 performances to ten.

The outright winner? Beethoven No. 3 and Dvorak No. 9 clock up 13 each, but I must give Beethoven the edge as No. 3 was featured at a London Symphony Orchestra "Discovery" concert where many extracts were played before the complete performance.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CHESTERMAN,
15 Shire Lane,
Chorleywood,
Hertfordshire,
January 1.

Set-aside land

From Mr Tony Paxton

Sir, Dr David Clark, Labour's agriculture spokesman, is wrong in attributing the fall in the UK cereals area from 3.9 million hectares in 1989 to 3.5 million in 1991 to land being set aside from production (report, January 1).

There are less than 155,000 hectares in the five-year set-aside scheme. Thus set-aside accounts for less than a half of the fall in the cereals area. Since 1989 the area of oilseed rape has increased by nearly 125,000 hectares. Rises in temporary grassland and other crops account for the rest.

Farmers who join the scheme are putting their most productive asset — their land — on which there still are costs such as rent, insurance and labour. They are not "being paid for nothing" — the set-aside has to be managed. It is only just that they should receive some compensation.

Sex education

From Dr Harry Stopes-Roe

Sir, Mr John Harwood-Stevenson (letter, December 30) asks Dr Eric Trimmer (letter, December 17), who was writing about sex education, where he gets his moral judgment. I would answer: "From an understanding of human nature." This involves sensitivity of feeling to recognise what is important, and depth of understanding — and lots of hard thought on consequences.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY STOPES-ROE,
British Humanist Association,
14 Lamb's Conduit Passage, WC1,
January 1.

'Weaving the Web'

From the Bishop of Leeds

Sir, You report (January 1) criticisms of a series of resource books for religious education, known as *Weaving the Web*. The criticisms are based on a misrepresentation of the intended nature of these books.

They are not intended to provide a syllabus or "a framework for Catholic education syllabuses". Their purpose (as the foreword makes abundantly clear) is to offer a resource for teachers and pupils; much other material is needed.

It is with this understanding that the education department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference authorised their publication as part of the substantial project in religious education (for people of all ages) currently being prepared and continuously monitored.

The Vatican congregation which advises on texts used for religious education has commented:

"Textbooks have a stated use and extent regarding their style and

purpose... Seen in the light of its intent *Weaving the Web* may be used in religious education."

It is clear that when the "literary form" of a text is ignored the text itself is then inevitably misrepresented.

Yours sincerely,

†DAVID KONSTANT (Chairman, Department of Catholic Education and Formation),
Bishop's House,
13 North Grange Road,
Headingley,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
January 1.

From Mr and Mrs Joe Bevan

Sir, In common with many other Catholic parents we were heartened by reading of Father Marsden's criticisms of *Weaving the Web*. We do feel, however, that the "blanc-

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Ways of curbing libel law abuse

From Mr D. S. Hooper

Sir, Having fought Robert Maxwell in libel actions for the last 15 years I am convinced — like your leader writer (January 2) and Mr Tom Welsh (letter, December 30) — that his abuse of the libel laws requires more far-reaching reforms than those proposed by Lord Justice Neill (reports, October 8 and 22, 1991).

It was all too easy for Maxwell to fire off a writ and to massage some defamatory meaning out of words which he did not particularly care for. He seldom bothered to take his cases to court, relying on the power of his or his company's money and on the comfort that the law of libel gives to an unscrupulous plaintiff.

He rarely dispatched, before taking legal action, a letter which would have enabled the offending writer to put the matter right by an apology without court proceedings. He publicised his libel actions in his newspapers. He was well aware of the deterrent effect of a libel writ.

Some checks should be imposed on those tempted to emulate him by requiring them to particularise precisely what it is they claim is false. This should then be verified on affidavit. This would show a defendant what the plaintiff claims is the truth of the matter and would be preferable to the present form of libel claim, which all too often simply quotes large chunks from an article or book followed by a tortured defamatory meaning.

More libel actions could be settled at an early stage as each side would see the detail of the other's case. A plaintiff deliberately putting forward a false case to muzzle adverse comment would be guilty of perjury.

Maxwell's pursuit of the unauthorised biographies about him highlighted the need to restrict pre-emptive actions against distributors. He repeatedly failed to obtain injunctions against Tom Bower's book. However, he achieved the same result by intimidating book-sellers, by threat of libel actions, into not stocking any but the authorised biography.

He was able to do this without ever bringing his libel action against Mr Bower to trial. He did not even have to give any undertaking to pay damages to Mr Bower if his claim proved to be without merit as would have been the case if he had obtained an injunction.

While the courts in the Goldsmith and Private Eye litigation felt that this did not amount to an abuse of the process of the court, the experience of Maxwell clearly requires such a reassessment of actions against distributors before the main libel action has been decided.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOOPER (Partner),
Biddle & Co. (Solicitors),
1 Gresham Street, EC2,
January 3.

East Timor massacre

From Mr Joao Boavida and others

Sir, The Indonesian occupation of the former Portuguese territory of East Timor constitutes one of the most flagrant breaches of international law and sustained abuse of human rights in post-war history.

Between 1975 and 1991, upwards of a quarter of the original population of 688,000 have been killed, a worse record than the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. During these 16 years of military rule, numerous massacres have been perpetrated against the civilian population.

Most recently between 75 and 100 died when Indonesian troops opened fire on a crowd of mourners at the Santa Cruz cemetery (report, November 19; leading article, November 22), an incident filmed by a British cameraman from Yorkshire Television. Since that time many more are thought to have died from their wounds or from arbitrary execution by the Indonesian security forces.

Foreign eyewitnesses have denied Indonesian allegations that the massacre was provoked by violence on the part of the East Timorese crowd. Yet, although the Indonesian commission of enquiry has itself admitted that it was unable to conduct proper interviews with East Timorese witnesses because of the climate of fear now prevailing in the territory, it still sought to endorse the army's line that the massacre was

provoked and to excuse it as a "regrettable tragedy" (report, November 27).

Given these developments, it is time for Britain to take a stronger stand. It should support the sending of a UN investigation team to East Timor (an initiative agreed by the outgoing secretary-general), place an embargo on all further arms sales to Jakarta (Britain now being one of Indonesia's major suppliers), and follow the lead taken by Canada, The Netherlands and Denmark in suspending all new aid programmes in Indonesia until the East Timor question is properly resolved.

If the "new world order" so proudly proclaimed in the aftermath of the liberation of Kuwait last year means anything, it must surely encompass an act of self-determination for the East Timorese people and an immediate end to the Indonesian military occupation which has cost so many lives.

Yours sincerely,
JOAO BOAVIDA
(Linacre College),
PETER CAREY
(Trinity College),
MICHAEL DUMMETT
(New College),
R. W. JOHNSON,
(Magdalen College),
RODNEY NEEDHAM
(All Souls College),
BERNARD SUFRIN
(Worcester College),
Oxford,
January 7.

Yours faithfully,
MARK LE FANU,
General Secretary,
The Society of Authors,
84 Drayton Gardens, SW10.

From the Chairman of the Association of British Editors

Sir, The media have been accused of failing in their duty to report fully on the trickery of Robert Maxwell while he was alive. Few journalists will be disposed to argue the point.

This association has long argued for amendments to the law in this respect and we warmly support your call for reforms similar to those now being introduced in Australia.

We should be aware that others are as capable as Maxwell of manipulating writs to inhibit investigation and publication of information they wish to conceal. A law that allows them to get away with it cannot be in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES BISHOP, Chairman,
Association of British Editors,
20 Upper Ground, SE1.

From Mr Bernard Barnett

Sir, There is a perfectly simple way of reforming the libel laws without having to rewrite the entire legislation: allow the judge, not the jury, to decide amounts of damages. Many publishers are deterred from defending actions, less by the legal costs than by the possibility of absurdly high awards by juries.

In the criminal courts the jury decides guilt and the judge decides sentence. Why not adopt the same procedure for libel?

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BARNETT
(Editorial Director),
Campaign,
Haymarket Campaign
Publications Ltd.,
22 Lancaster Gate, W2.

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RODNEY NEEDHAM
(All Souls College),
BERNARD SUFRIN
(Worcester College),
Oxford,
January 7.

Raised voices

From Mr Fritz Spiegl

Sir, Charles Bremner (article, January 3) mentions what he calls "the old New York Jewish habit" of answering questions with another question. This certainly started as a Jewish habit and has spread worldwide. (Ask any railway porter about a train arrival and he may well reply, "how should I know?")

But it is much older than New York, or even the discovery of America. In Genesis 4:9, "... the Lord said unto Cain, where is Abel thy brother?"; and Cain answers God back with what must be the original counter-question (just as his parents invented original sin): "Am I my brother's keeper?" This must be the first recorded instance of breathtaking chutzpah. God might have counter-retorted with, "who do you think you're kidding?"

Yours faithfully,
FRITZ SPIEGL,
4 Windermere Terrace, Liverpool 8.



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 7: Ruth, Lady Fernoy, has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 7: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall (Mr David Landale).

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 7: It is with the greatest pleasure that The Duke and Duchess of Kent announce the betrothal of their daughter Lady Helen Windsor, to Sir Tim Verner Taylor, eldest son of Commander Michael Taylor, Royal Navy, of Stoke St Gregory, Taunton, and Mrs Colin Walkinshaw, of Compton, Guildford, to which union Queen has gladly given her consent.

Birthdays today

Miss Shirley Basse, singer, 55; Mr David Bowie, singer and actor, 45; Mr S.G. Cameron, former chairman, Gallaher, 68; Sir Maxwell Ennals, former chairman, Merseyside Development Committee, 82; Mr José Ferrer, actor, director and producer, 80; Professor Stephen Hawking, C.H. theoretical physicist, 50; Major-General J.R. Holden, 79; Lord Hollenden, 78; Mr Howard Jones, governor, Belmarsh Prison, 56; the Right Rev E.G. Knapp-Fisher, former Archdeacon of Westminster, 77; Air Commodore Joan Macaulay, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 69; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 68; Mr D.E. Prince, headmaster, Reed's School, Surrey, 54; Mrs L.M. Read, MEP, 53; Professor W.B. Reddaway, economist, 79; Miss Galina Ulanova, prima ballerina, 82; Mr G.H. Whalen, managing director, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company, 50; Mr Michael Wheeler, QC, 77.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.P. Cook, Cullen, and Miss M.C. Cullen. The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs R.P. Cook, of Hagley, Worcestershire, and Maureen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Cullen, of Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Mr D.J.I. Coulson and Miss C.H.T. Cadbury. The engagement is announced between the son of His Honour Michael Coulson, of Wymondham, Leicestershire, and Mrs David Green, of Empingham, Leicestershire, and Claudia Honor Teresa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Cadbury, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Mr W.R.T. Crane and Miss C.E. Chivers. The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs David Crane, of Hallowington, Nottinghamshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Chivers, of Giron, Cambridge.

Mr M.R. Daws and Miss A.J. Axon. The engagement is announced between Martin Richard, son of Mr and Mrs M.R. Daws, of Geddington, Nottingham, and Amanda Judith, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Axon, of Oakham, Rutland, Leicestershire.

The Rev P.A. Eagles and Miss G. Seager. The engagement is announced between Peter Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs P.F. Eagles, of Guildford, Surrey, and Gill, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Seager, of Ruislip, Middlesex.

Mr Q.S. Fitzsimmons and Miss A.E. Edwards. The engagement is announced between Quentin Simon, son of Mr and Mrs E. T. H. Fitzsimmons, of Teddington, Middlesex, and Alice Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.D. Edwards, of Cringleford, Norfolk.

Mr C.R. Grave and Miss P.J. Lay. The engagement is announced between Charlie, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.R. Grave, of Hingham, Suffolk, and Penny, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Lay, of Cowden, Kent.

Mr I.C.M. Harrison and Miss S.J. Willink. The engagement is announced between Ian Charles Michael, son of Mr and Mrs M.J. Harrison, of Tattersett, Norfolk, and Susan Joan, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.W. Willink, of Crook, Cumbria.

Mr N.J. Helme and Miss G.E. Hall. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr E.B. Helme and the late Mrs K.V. Helme, of Landincho, Hereford, and Gillian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J. Hall, of Clayton West, Yorkshire.

Dr H.J. Herzig and Dr I.O.C. de Salis. The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Herzig, of Horsham, Sussex, and Isabel, eldest daughter of Count and Countess Charles de Salis, of Somerset.

Mr R.W. Holman and Miss L.O. Cale Matthews. The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Holman, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Louise, daughter of Dr and Mrs Geoffrey Matthews, of Kensington, London.

Mr D.C. Hughes and Miss C.M. Bennett. The engagement is announced between David Campbell, youngest son of Mrs Flora Hughes and the late Trevor Hughes, of Llangarfon, Herefordshire, and Claire Margaret, daughter of Mrs Doreen Bennett and the late Ian Bennett, of Hartford, Cheshire.

Mr C.R.B. Kerr and Miss C.G. Klee. The engagement is announced between Charles Robert Boulbee, youngest son of the late Colonel W.H. Kerr and of Mrs C. Rickard, of Newton Toney, Wiltshire, and Caroline Geraldine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G.P. Klee, of West Malvern, Worcestershire.

Mr G.T. Lilburn and Miss V.V. Apold. The engagement is announced between Gavin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Lilburn, of Zurich, Switzerland, and Vivienne, only daughter of the late Mr John W. Apold and of Mrs Denis Eadie, of Landsdowne Crescent, Edinburgh.

Mr G.H. Morlock and Miss K.R. Reeves. The engagement is announced between Guy, second son of Mr and Mrs Philip Morlock, of Court Lodge, West Farleigh, Kent, and Katherine, younger daughter of Mr Jonathan Reeves, of Mythe Court, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Jeremy Case, of New Marton Hall, Oswestry, Shropshire.

Mr A.G. Moss and Miss K. Wachholz. The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.G. Moss, of St John's Wood, London, and Kerstin, elder daughter of Herr and Frau H. Wachholz, of Hamburg.

Mr J.W.G. Nicholas and Miss S.C. Burton. The engagement is announced between the son of Mr and Mrs John Nicholas, of Pondhall House, Horsham, Sussex, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Burton, of Danmore House, Heckfield, Hampshire.

Mr D.W. Pearsall and Miss C.J. Bailey. The engagement is announced between Daniel William, son of Professor and Mrs D.A. Pearsall, of Clifton, York, and Claire Janette, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.A.S. Bailey, of Alne, York.

Mr M.J.F. Pellet and Miss C.E.P. Quinzen. The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.E.M. Pellet, of Selsey, Sussex, and Pandora, fourth daughter of the late Norman Quinzen and of Mrs J.N. Quinzen, of Ealing, London, W5.

Dr N.S. Peters and Miss C.A. Darke. The engagement is announced between Nicholas Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Peters, of Ealing, London, and Charlotte Amanda, daughter of Mr Geoffrey Darke, FRCS, and Mrs Darke, of Bicknoller, Somerset.

Mr C.J. Rees and Miss M.L. Withers. The engagement is announced between Christopher John, youngest son of Mr John Rees, of Phoenix House, Fairstead, and of Mrs Susan Rees, of Brook Green, London, and Maria Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Withers, of Coaley, Gloucestershire.

Mr S.P. Rock and Miss A.H. Ideos. The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mr Peter Rock, of Wimborne Minster, and Mrs Wendy Richards, of Little Tew, Oxfordshire, and Alexandra, daughter of Dr Andreas Ideos, of Geneva, Switzerland, and of the late Mrs Jill Flanders Ideos.

Mr M.T.R. Stephens and Miss C.J. Whitmore. The engagement is announced between Marc Timothy Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs Richard Stephens, of Redhill, Surrey (formerly of Kuwait), and Abu Dhabbi, and Candia Jane, younger daughter of Sir Alan Whitmore, of Virginia, USA, and Mrs Lavender Whitmore, of Epsom, Surrey.

Dr G. Vautier and Miss K.M. Gale. The engagement is announced between Guy, youngest son of Mrs P. Vautier, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs G.F.S. Gale, of Godalming, Surrey.

Mr E. Walker-Munro and Miss S. Howman. The engagement is announced between Euan, elder son of Mr Hugh Walker-Munro and the late Mrs Irene Walker-Munro, of Kinneil, Angus, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Howman, of Ashmore, Shepperton.

Mr T.H.I. Waterhouse and Miss B.H. Aashelm. The forthcoming marriage is announced between Thomas, son of Sir Ronald and Lady Waterhouse, of St John's Wood, London, and Bente, elder daughter of Mrs Ella H. Aashelm, of Tarm, Denmark.

Mr J.H. Wright and Miss C.F. Vernon. The engagement is announced between James, twin son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Wright, of Adstone, Northamptonshire, and Caroline, elder daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs P.H. Vernon, of Antwerp, Belgium.

OBITUARIES

JOYCE BUTLER



Joyce Butler, Labour and Co-operative MP from 1955 to 1979, died on January 2 aged 81. She was born on December 13, 1910.

JOYCE Butler was a feminist before the term became popular and a Labour MP who deserved more from her party than the parliamentary private secretaryship to the Minister of Land and Natural Resources to which she was appointed in 1965 and which proved to be the highlight of her official career. What she achieved, however, was probably more important to her than junior office.

She pioneered the Women's Cervical Cancer Campaign, later the Women's National Cancer Control Campaign, becoming its first president. She fought discrimination against women and in 1968 introduced her own bill which would have made discrimination illegal.

Though no royalist Joyce Butler was prompted to transform her own views into legislation by the Queen's 1967 Christmas broadcast which emphasised the need for greater opportunities for women. After her own efforts to obtain parliamentary time had failed, she unhesitatingly and unselfishly handed over her measure to Willie Hamilton, who had been successful in the ballot for private members bills. The bill was talked over by the Tory MP, Ronald Bell, but when a Conservative government produced a bill, which eventually became law in 1973, it was supported and in some cases improved by Joyce Butler in spite of the fact that she felt it did not go as far as she would have wanted.

She was the daughter of a photographer and educated at King Edward's High School, Birmingham. She had been a socialist since

girlhood and joined the Labour Party in 1931, the year which saw the party in great disarray than at any time since its foundation. She remained a 1930s-type socialist all her life — idealistic, pacifist, a believer in the co-operative movement, a supporter of the rights of man and, more important to her, the rights of women.

She was elected to Wood Green council in 1947 and was its leader in 1954-55. Although she was quietly spoken and stayed shy throughout her public life she proved a tough disciplinarian in the old Herbert Morrison tradition during her period as

leader. She was the first chairman of the new London Borough of Haringey in 1964-5 and its first mayoress in 1965-6.

In 1955 she was elected for the safe seat of Wood Green and was soon recognised in the House as one of its leading authorities on housing. She opposed nuclear weapons from the outset of her parliamentary career and was a prominent figure on the Aldermaston marches. The subjects on which she spoke in the Commons were on her familiar territory — health, local government, the environment and consumer issues. She tried to get

advertising of sweets banned from children's television programmes and she was anxious to protect shoppers from any possible trading stamp exploitation.

She was a passionate animal lover, her concern ranging from bullfighting to the force-feeding of geese to produce *paté de foie gras*. She was chairman of the select committee on violence in the family in 1966-77 and suggested unsuccessfully that the government should set up a telephone service to help battered children — another of her ideas which was before its time. In 1976 she was one of the MPs who walked out from the committee set up to consider amendments to the 1967 Abortion Act because she believed that the committee's aim might be to curb the grounds on which abortion was legally available.

Although she never obtained the office in which she might have flourished, her colleagues recognised her qualities by electing her vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party from 1968 to 1970. For nine years she was joint chairman of the parliamentary committee on pollution and she served on the estimates committee in 1959-60. From 1964-79 she was on the chairman's panel.

The Fabian Society, dedicated to equality between the sexes, made her its vice-president. Just before the 1979 election she announced that she would not be seeking re-election to her constituency — Haringey, as Wood Green had become — but in retirement she continued to be active as president of the London Passenger Action Group and as vice-president of Wood Green Action Group. She is survived by her husband, Vic Butler, a Haringey councillor, their son and daughter.

MIKE FRANKOVICH



Mike Frankovich, film producer in London and Hollywood, died in Los Angeles on New Year's Day aged 81. He was born on September 29, 1910 in Bisbee, Arizona.

SOME producers contrive to leave a personal mark on everything they touch. Mike Frankovich was not one of those. He was essentially a company man, making run-of-the-mill films which seldom showed much ambition to rise above the level of neatly packaged, eminently workmanlike entertainment. By the time he started to produce his own films in the early Fifties, the days of producers who asked for nothing better than to be a cog in the company wheel were nearly over. The only way one could be effectively a company man in film production was by running the whole show, and this for a while Frankovich did, at Columbia, the company with which he was most associated throughout his career.

He came to that point by degrees. The adopted son of the comedian Joe E. Brown, he was brought up on the

fringes of showbusiness, and after graduating from UCLA went into radio, which during the Thirties was an important training ground for new talent. He was a successful commentator, and wrote and produced his own shows. In 1938 he took a logical step by entering films as a screenwriter, and in 1940 he married the British-born film star Binnie Barnes, who was to appear in several of his films, even after her official retirement. His career was inter-

rupted by the second world war, most of which he spent in the US Army, the latter part in Europe. Like many soldiers stationed in Europe at the war's end, he acquired a taste for the Continent and stayed on to become an independent producer based in London.

Some of his early films, such as *Decameron Nights* and *Footsteps in The Fog*, were stylish and off-beat enough to attract some attention. In 1955 he took an executive position with Columbia in London, and by 1959 had been put in charge of the company's whole London operation. In 1962 his responsibilities were extended to cover all of Columbia's international production. The following year he went back to Hollywood as vice-president in charge of Columbia's whole production programme.

As executive producer he was generally responsible for a number of big successes, including the (in its day) slightly shocking *Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice*, and the John Le Carré adap-

tation *The Looking Glass War*. His own personal taste seemed to go more in the direction of discreetly theatrical adaptations (not too expensive of guaranteed stage hits like *Cactus Flower*, and after he resigned as production head in order to concentrate on his own independent productions he worked on a number of similar properties, such as *There's a Girl in My Soup*, *Butterflies Are Free*, and *40 Cents*. He also produced John Wayne's last significant film, *The Shootist*, in 1976.

In a world of outsize temperaments Frankovich was a quiet man and a diplomat. Though he could be tough when he had to be, he was liked and respected by all his associates. His private life was kept private; he was married to the same wife for 51 years and probably owed some of his extraordinary equilibrium to the solid home life of a dedicated family man. He is survived by Binnie Barnes, two sons, Mike Jr and Peter, and a daughter Michele.

TONY MURRAY

Tony Murray, rider of seven classic winners in England and Ireland, including the Irish Derby, was found dead at his Wiltshire home on January 6. He was 41, and born on February 18, 1950.

TONY Murray was a strong, stylish and supremely confident jockey who was beset with weight problems throughout his career, but nevertheless rode well over 1,000 winners between 1966 and 1986. The nearest he came to success in the Derby was in 1979 in the 200th renewal of the race. Murray had the mount on the Irish-trained Dickens Hill on whom he had succeeded in the Irish Two Thousand Guineas. Dickens Hill led briefly in the straight but had no chance against Troy, who showed astonishing speed and went on to beat Dickens Hill into second place by seven lengths.

Murray had enjoyed an even easier classic triumph when, in 1975, he rode Bruni, for Charles St George and Ryan Price, to an unchallenged ten lengths victory in the St Leger. His other English classic success had been for the same owner and trainer three seasons earlier when he managed to settle the highly-strung Ginevra to win the Oaks.

Anthony Patrick Murray was the son of Paddy Murray who rode winners under National Hunt Rules in the immediate post-war years. He had a good schooling in the hunting field and the show-jumping ring and during the school holidays rode gallops for Captain Tim Forster. This grounding was finished off in style by that master of teaching apprentices, "Frenchie" Nicholson, to whom he went in August, 1965. The following year Murray rode his first winner, Guardian Oak, in a selling handicap at Windsor.

Two years after that, ironically on the same course, Murray's career almost came to an end with a bad fall in which he broke his jaw in 48 places. He recovered, however, and in 1970 became first jockey to Doug Smith. After two seasons he took up a similar post with Ryan Price, which produced not only his English classic successes but

also that of Giacometti in the Gimcrack and Champagne Stakes. In this period too, in 1972, Murray had his best-ever season with 122 winners and was runner-up in the jockeys' championship.

In 1976 he went to France and rode there with great success for three seasons. Then he went to Ireland where, in 1980, he partnered Tymavos to a shock 25-1 victory in the Irish Derby and Cairn Rouge success in the Irish One Thousand Guineas. In 1982 he returned to Newmarket but weight problems in 1983 (when he rode the Irish Two Thousand Guineas winner Wastell for John Dunlop) made him decide to take up training.

However, in 1984 he became stable jockey to Harry Thomson Jones, which produced another Irish classic victory with the filly Al Bahathri in the One Thousand Guineas in 1985 after being beaten by only a short head in the One Thousand Guineas at Newmarket. In that year, Murray rode his third Gimcrack winner, Doublab, as well as helping to land a Cesarewitch gamble on the north-west-trained Kayvude.

After he retired, Murray became the racing manager to Tony Budge who with his trainer, Richard Hannon, enjoyed an incredible run in 1991, much of it helped by Murray's choice of bloodstock. The untimely loss of this personable and pleasant personality will be keenly felt by them. Murray was separated from his wife, Jane, the daughter of the late Ryan Jarvis.



MR JUSTICE MARTYN WARD

N. C. Dewhurst writes:

YOUR obituary of Mr Justice Martyn Ward (December 28) highlighted his love of speed and zest for life. In his early twenties he possessed a Triumph Tiger Twin motor-cycle always maintained in near pristine condition.

I recall a lunchtime pillbox ride cutting a dash along the Chelmsford bypass, streaming a vermillion scarf as pennant to deliver me at a polling station to register my vote in the 1951 general election. A plan to adorn with blue paint the offices of a weekly newspaper well known in the county in those days for its political bias came to naught, his wise counsel prevailing — perhaps a portent for the future.

During the aftermath of the second world war he took

a keen interest in the problems of famine and disease in the emerging Third World countries as we now know them. This compassionate concern for the human condition and strongly held belief in the principles of social justice and equality were ideals which doubtless sustained and motivated him throughout a successful and distinguished legal career.

HELENA Shire: We have been asked to point out that the funds to establish the Corbridge Trust (obituary of Helena Shire, November 28) were provided by Mary Corbridge and that the trust was set up in memory of Mary Corbridge and her husband Clifford.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Alfred Wallace, naturalist, USK, Gwent, 1823; Wilkie Collins, novelist, London, 1824; Hans von Bulow, pianist and conductor, Dresden, 1830; John Curdie, prime minister of Australia, 1914; E. S. Crewdick, Victoria, 1885; Solomon Bandaranaike, prime minister of Sri Lanka 1956-59, Colombo, 1899; Elvis Presley, Tupelo, Mississippi, 1935.

DEATHS: Edgar, king of Norway, 1067-1107; Dante, Italian, painter, Florence, 1337; Galileo, mathematician and astronomer, Arcetri, Italy, 1642; Arcangelo Corelli, composer, Rome, 1713; John Backus, American typographer and printer, London, 1975; Paul Verlaine, poet, Paris, 1895; Robert Stephenson Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, general, founder of the Boy Scouts, Nyeri, Kenya, 1941; Richard Tauber, tenor, 1948; Kurt Schwitters, painter, Little Langdale, Cumbria, 1948; Chou En-lai, premier of the People's Republic of China 1949-76, Peking, 1976.

Rationing of butter, bacon and sugar began, 1940.

Gray's Inn House Dinner

A House Dinner in honour of Master The Right Hon The Lord Shawcross, GBE, QC, DCL, LL.D. and in celebration of his 90th birthday on February 4, will be held in Gray's Inn Hall on Wednesday, February 12, 1992. Members of Gray's Inn, who would like their names to be included in the ballot for places, are requested to write to the Under-Treasurer, marking their envelopes "House Dinner". The closing date for the ballot is Wednesday, January 22, 1992. Members attending will be charged £25, except for those under ten years' call who will be charged £15, and students £10. Cheques should be made payable to "Gray's Inn" and enclosed with the letter of application.

Bedford High School

The Spring Term begins today and ends on March 31. The Wind Concert is on March 3; the Gymnastics Display on March 12 and 13; the Senior Choir will be joining Oundle School in a joint production of Mozart's *Requiem* on March 20; and the Orchestra Concert is on March 23. Junior entrance assessments are on January 18 (8 plus), January 22 (7 plus) and January 25 (9 plus and 10 plus); Senior Entrance Examinations and Assisted Places Examinations are on January 30. The School will be open to prospective parents and pupils (Day Girls and Boarders) on Tuesday, January 14, at 11am or 2.30pm. The Guild will be celebrating its Centenary on May 8/9 at the School. Non members are invited to obtain details of the arrangements from the Guild Secretary, Mrs D. Chandler, at the School.

Eton College

Eton College opens today for the Lent Half. There are 1,271 boys in the School. W.T.C. Prior KS continues as Captain of the School and M.B. Swire OS as Captain of Oppidians. The examination for Junior Scholarships will be held on February 1 and that for Sixth Form Scholarships on February 7 and 8. Business Week starts on February 9, and Long Leave will be from February 13 to 17. There will be services of Confirmation in College Chapel, conducted by the Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln, on March 7 and 8. School closes on March 18.

Harrogate Ladies' College

Harrogate Ladies' College re-opens today for the Spring Term. The entrance tests for September 1992 take place on January 23. Matrons will be broadcast from the School Chapel on Radio 4 on Sunday, February 9. There will be two performances of Purcell's

School announcements

Dido & Aeneas on March 27 and 28, at 7.30 and Easter Music on Sunday, March 29. Programmes for the Centenary Year 1992/93 will be available at Easter. Half term is from February 20 to 25 and term ends on April 1.

Latimer Upper School

Spring Term starts today and ends on March 31. The 70th Anniversary of the Guild will be celebrated on March 28. Any past staff or Gildani who wish further details should write to The Rev J.J. McCabe at school. The Jantaculum will be held from March 25-27. A concert of combined orchestras of Latimer Upper, The Godolphin and Latimer Schools, with The Johnanneum, Hamdun, will be held on March 30. The Forum Society will welcome Sir Bernard Ingham, and the Right Hon Dr J. Gilbert, MP, amongst its speakers in this term.

Llandovery College

Lent Term begins today. The Eisteddfod and the Founder's Dinner will be held at the College on Friday, February 28, and Old Llandoveryans' dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London, on Friday, March 6. Confirmation will be administered by the Bishop of St David on Friday, March 13. Exeat is from February 14 to 19 and term ends on Friday, March 27.

St Dunstan's College

Lent Term began on January 6 and ends on April 1. Exeat being from February 14 to 21. T.F. Stone continues as Head of School. The CCF Committee's Annual Review will take place on March 2. The Reviewing Officer being Colonel P.F. Sherinton, MBE, Deputy Colonel, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. The Drama Society will be performing *The Caretaker* on February 11, 12 and 13, and the Preparatory Department's production of *Peter Pan* is on

March 26 to 28. The Music Society is performing Handel's *Messiah* in conjunction with Bromley High School at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon, on March 24. The College will be open to parents interested in entering their sons from 10.00 to noon on Saturday, January 11. The College entrance examination will be held on Tuesday, January 21.

St Francis' College, Leichworth

The Spring Term at St Francis' College begins today, Wednesday, January 8, and ends on Wednesday, April 8, 1992. Mr Roderick Marshall takes up his appointment as Bursar on the retirement of Major George Abbey. Tamsin Phoenix is Head Girl and Sarah Jefferson is her deputy. Melita Fernandes is Chairman of the Boarders' Council and Tasneem Samra is Vice Chairman. The Entrance Examinations will be held on Friday, February 14, and the Sixth Form Scholarship examination on Saturday, February 15. There will be a Concert in Chapel on the evening of Friday, March 20, given jointly by St Francis' College and Swanbourne House Preparatory School.

St George's College

The Easter Term begins today. The Scholarship examinations are on Monday and Tuesday, February 24 and 25. St George's Hockey Sixes will be played on Wednesday, March 4. Old Georgians' Day is on Sunday, March 22, and choral works by Faure and Handel will be performed in chapel that evening. Term ends on Friday, March 27.

St James's and The Abbey, West Malvern

The Spring Term begins today at St James's and The Abbey. The Old Girls' Association and Parents' Association joint reunion '1 was there' Ball is being held at

School on Saturday, May 30. All ticket applications to Susie Green, 10 Soins Avenue, London, SW15 6UY.

Woldingham School

The Spring Term begins today. Anna Maria Vella-Briffa continues as Head Girl with Marjorie Broom as Deputy Head Girl. The 150th Anniversary Celebrations of Roehampton-Woldingham this year will include opening of Upper Sixth Form Centre, September 26, Anniversary Ball at the Inter-Continental Hotel, London, October 2, and Mass of Thanksgiving in Westminster Cathedral, October 3. For further information and tickets please contact the Head of Administration at the school.

Dinner

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained the Court of Aldermen, the Sheriffs and the High Officers of the Corporation of London and their ladies at dinner last night at Guildhall. The other guests were Sir Allen and Lady Davis, Colonel and Mrs J. R. L. Howard, Miss Julia Jenkins, Mr Charles Jenkins and Mr and Mrs G. W. Rowley.

Alban Caroe

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Alban Caroe, OBE, MA, FSA, past-master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, will be held at St Magnus-the-Martyr, Lower Thames Street, at 2.30pm, on Friday, January 31.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess Royal, as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will visit the London International Boat Show at Earls Court at 12.30 and present the Seafarers' Foundation's Seafarers Award.

Dean to retire

The Dean of Hereford, the Very Rev Peter Haynes, who was at the centre of controversy over the proposed sale of the Mappa Mundi from Hereford Cathedral, is to retire in April.

Dean Haynes and the cathedral chapter faced protests when they announced that the medieval map was to be auctioned to raise an estimated £3 million to pay for repairs to the cathedral fabric, to protect its stained glass and to preserve the choral foundation.

The issue was resolved when Mr J. Paul Getty II, the philanthropist, and the National Heritage Memorial Fund produced a rescue package to enable the map to remain in Hereford.

The dean, aged 66, is a steam train enthusiast and has maintained a model railway track in the garden of the Hereford Rectory. He intends to lay out a similar track at his retirement home.

University news

Oxford
Canon Peter Hinchliff, fellow and tutor of Balliol College and a Canon Theologian of Coventry Cathedral, has been appointed to the Canonry of Christ Church and to the Regius Professorship of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford University. He succeeds the Rev Professor John McManis, who retired in 1984, since when the post has been in suspension.

Reception

HM Government
Mr Ian Lang, Secretary of State for Scotland, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Edinburgh Castle for participants at the annual conference of the University Association for Contemporary European Studies.

Judge to retire

Mr Justice Hodgson will retire as a Justice of the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) on January 12. He was appointed to the High Court in 1977.

Glimpses of greatness

DONALD COOPER

THEATRE

Sophisticated Ladies Globe

FOR *Five Guys Named Moe*, still at the Lyric, a motley set of dudes bounce out of a radio set and proceed to cheer up a love-struck boy by banging off loads of songs. In *A Swell Party*, still at the Vaudeville, description of Cole Porter's life and career clearly matters a lot less than the numbers that the cast find excuses to sing. But *Sophisticated Ladies*, which has been these shows has a book as thick and busy as *War and Peace*. Do not take time out to glance down at the Globe programme, or you will probably miss the story. For myself, I suspect it occurred while I was blowing my nose in Act II.

Perhaps it is the most honest way. *Sophisticated Ladies* at least does not pretend to be more than some animated pickings from the oeuvre of Duke Ellington. The show is not to be recommended to those who want to learn any facts about the genius whose trim, benign face hangs in genteel reproduction at the back of the stage. Nor is it for serious lovers of his work, who will probably be irritated by the showbiz flummery and flummery. It is for those who want to pass an undemanding couple of hours watching Roger Haines's gifted company sing and dance to the Duke's tunes.

The proceedings open at the New York nighterie where Ellington made his name. We know this because someone tautologically calls out, "Welcome to Harlem's most famous nightspot, the world-famous Cotton Club." Men in leopard-print suits, with their chests bare, prance round a woman with what seems to be a giant artichoke on her head; and another young lady appears riding a huge, half-skinned banana, this time with a basket of fruit in her hair. But there is also the marvellous "I Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing", which is put over with brio by Jacqui Dubois and a tap-dancing retinue.

Then it's off to a station complete with porter, luggage and puffs of steam: a quaint setting, surely, for the celebrated subway song, "Take the A Train". Even in the 1930s A trains, not to mention B, C and F trains,



Gifted line-up in the shadow of a jazz genius: the cast of the all-singing, all-dancing *Sophisticated Ladies*

traversed the bowels of Manhattan with the help of electricity, not coal fires and water. But let's not quibble. This curious vehicle ends up in what a neon cocktail glass and a table of drinkers proclaim to be some downtown bar; and here Jacqueline Dankworth sings "Solitude" with quiet and wistful power: "I sit in my chair, I'm filled with despair, there's nobody could be so sad." The very banality of Ellington's lyrics can be a plus, suggesting as it does an unfaked simplicity of emotion.

The second half whisks us back to a Harlem which has now acquired

black steel staircases, down which assorted bad-hats come to mime sex and robbery. A man in a tuxedo suit shoots a man in a pink one. There is also an abortive card-game, unluckily the accompaniment of one of Ellington's most intense and dissonant numbers, "Ko-Ko". This is one of several occasions when his educated jazz seems little more than background music. Even his fine "C Jam Blues" is heard as the audience returns from its interval drinks.

Still, Charles Miller's band plays well, at times almost too well. It lacks that feeling of spontaneity and rough-

ness Ellington himself so valued that he actually marked scores "slovenly". Yet even so, there are moments when trumpeters, saxophonists, cast and composer combine to produce something authentic. "Diminuendo in Blue" may pass for little, and the title-song itself for virtually nothing; but a blend of "I Got It Bad" and "Mood Indigo" brims with desolation. "He don't love me like I love him, nobody could, I've got it bad, and that ain't good": there, at least, is the sound of Ellington, rueful, melodious, original.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BILL & TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY** (PG). Return of the unlikely snail, time-travelling teenagers. Theatrical, over-the-top comedy. Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter. Director: Peter Hewitt. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **DELICATESSEN** (15). French video whizkids Jeanne and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a household of tenants living above a cannibalistic butcher. Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **V.I. WATSHAWSKI** (15). Dinky, clumsy, loud-mouthed thriller novelised from Sara Paretsky's detective novels, with Kathleen Turner as the street-smart feminist sleuth. Director: Jeff Kanewitz. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **THE ADAMS FAMILY** (PG). Tasty feast of black humour, inspired by the 1930s TV spin-off from Charles Addams's macabre cartoons. Starring Raúl Julia, Anjelica Huston, Christopher Lloyd. Director: Barry Sonnenfeld. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **AN AMERICAN TAIL: FIEVEL GOES WEST** (U). Hilarious sequel to the 1987 animation hit about immigrant mice best when it reworks Western clichés. A Steven Spielberg production. Director: Phil Barakat. Simon Wells. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **THE CABINET MINISTER**. Derek Nimmo and Maureen Lipman in a snubbed, largely unimpressive comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-887 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **DANCING AT LUGHANASA**. Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning comedy play, set in 1930s Donegal, returns with a new cast. Gaiety Theatre, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm. Sat, 4pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER**. Sometimes dark look at the fantasies of a woman married to a soccer nut. Decca, Catherine Street, London WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm.

◆ **THE GREAT PRETENDERS**. Young Decca and the company of actors, in a play about the life of a ghost story, using the vital ambiguity, greatness, of the play. Decca, Catherine Street, London WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **THE INNOCENTS**. Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* played as a ghost story, using the vital ambiguity, greatness, of the play. Decca, Catherine Street, London WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III**. Regal lunacy is very fine as a stricken king, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

◆ **THE ART OF DEATH**. Most of us are secretly fascinated by death, but such is our fear and embarrassment that we do not want to think about it. By contrast our post-romantic ancestors reacted energetically to the prospect of their own mortality. This exhibition spanning the years 1600-1800 shows how people surrounded themselves with reminders of death and how they would work hard to commemorate friends and relatives who had died. Among the exhibits associated with the death ritual are a mourning spoon bearing the initials of a deceased person, a "To Die For" medal, a skull-shaped watch, death masks and some vividly morbid illustrations.

◆ **ONE OVER THE EIGHT**. Alan Ayckbourn directs Peter Russell's comic-drama, with Saskia Wickham (heroine of *The Glass Menagerie*) as the co- in an otherwise all-star rowing crew who have locality challenged in London. The production is previewing and opens next Wednesday, Stephen Joseph Theatre, The Round, Scarborough (0773 370541), 7.30pm.

◆ **HALLIE**. In the first of three concerts with the Hallé, Sir Charles Groves

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

band, fresh, funny, and buoyant played by a largely amateur cast. Director: Alan Parker. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **CURLY SUE** (PG). Con man and moppet win the heart of a corporate attorney. Light mix of slapstick and sentiment, with a resolute child star (Ariana Portier). With James Belushi, Kelly Lynch. Director: John Hughes. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **ENCHANTED APRIL** (U). Four Englishmen share an Italian villa in the 1920s: witty lines, fine performances, evocative entertainment. Starring Miranda Richardson, Joan Plowright, John Lawrence, director, Mike Newell. Curzon West End (071-438 4805).

◆ **THE FISHER KING** (15). Jeff Bridges and Robin Williams as two lost souls from the myths of time up against modern adversity. Wayward. Overlooked Terry Gilliam film with odd moments. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **FLUTING** (12). Steps to maturity at segregated Ausere boarding schools in 1985. Delightful sequel to *The Year My Voice Broke* from director John Dahl. With Noah Taylor, Thandie Newton. Cannon (0205 914263) West End (0426 914263) Whittlesley (071-732 3332).

◆ **HOT SHOTS!** (12). Spoof comedy from Arpanian alumna Jim Abrahams. With Charlie Sheen, Lloyd Bridges, and far too few good jokes.

◆ **THE COMPARTMENTS** (15). Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters from a soul

Wynham's, Channing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Thurs, Sat, 3pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **A SWELL PARTY**. Four singers, two penicillin in a live-action tribute to Cole Porter's wit and wry melodies. Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm and 8.50pm. Wed, 2.30pm.

◆ **TARTUFFE**. Paul Eddington directs, John Sessions costs, Felicity Kendal is told in a nearly successful Molière playhouse. Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm, 10.30pm. Final week.

◆ **A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES**. Brothers. Lively parade of tenfold blues. Good fun. Whitehall, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm and 8.30pm. 10.30pm.

◆ **LONG RUNNERS**. ♦ Aspects of Love. Royal of Wales (071-867 1115). ♦ Blood Brothers. Phoenix (071-867 1044). ♦ Buddy. Phoenix (071-867 1044). ♦ The Great Pretenders. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-887 1115). ♦ The Madness of George III. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-887 1115).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

◆ **HOUSE FULL, RETURNS ONLY**. ♦ Seats available. ♦ Seats at all prices.

◆ **NATIONAL (Lynette)**. South Bank. London SE1 (071-828 2252). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat. Today, 2.15pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **THE MARVELOUS BOY**. Public Parts, the company responsible for *Aladdin*, *The Great Pretenders*, now presents the story of Chatterbox. Bristol's finest and teenage suicide. Decca, Catherine Street, London WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **THE MYSTERY OF MARIA MARTEN**. Chris Bond's entertaining detective comedy re-opens a famous Victorian murder case. Warehouse, Deynwall Road, East Croydon (081-690 4060). Tues-Sat, 8pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **ONCE A CATHOLIC**. Welcome return of Mary J. O'Connell's romping comedy about a convent girl growing up between nuns and tiddy boys. Trinity, 258 Kilburn High Road, NW5 (071-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm, 10.30pm.

◆ **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**. Gleeful version of the old thriller, tunes by Michael Korfmann and Vito. Not Lloyd-Webber. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (071-379 5559). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm. Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 3pm, 10.30pm.

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THEATRE

Dog in a Manger Cockpit

ABSURDLY few plays by Lope de Vega, dead these 350 years, had been seen in this country until a small handful of fringe companies decided to risk him and Dedan Donnellan directed *Fuenteovejuna* at the National in 1989. At the present production rate of 12 a year (there have been four London productions in as many months) British companies will have worked through the whole corpus of 400 in another 33 years.

Already we have seen good and poor productions of the same work (*Punishment without Revenge*) to warn against dismissing any unfamiliar play out of hand. *Dog in a Manger* may therefore be a profounder piece of writing than the present production by TNT gives reason to suppose. Certainly the lacklustre production by Martin Lloyd-Evans and shallow performances in crucial roles do it an obvious disservice.

In outline, the play sounds full of potential. The dog — and the manger too, for that matter — is the Countess Diana, a pillar of Neapolitan society who fancies her secretary, Teodoro. To marry him is unthinkable: she is, after all, a pillar and he a mere man of the soil. But to let him marry Marcela, her lady-in-waiting, is equally intolerable. "God's curse on you, Honour, who invented you!" she exclaims in the words of John Fordon's odd translation. How can love and honour both be satisfied?

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All the more remarkable, then, was Jane Atkins's firm projection. Whether or not she likes this stuff, she must, in order to attain such power and clarity, feel a passionate need to communicate it. Her performances are tight, cool, exact. She makes the viola sound less like a withdrawn violin than a tensed-up cello; quieter, yes, but with that same vocal presence, that same aptitude for long, searching melody, presented, in her case, with constantly alert concentration. She even has the stamina for the seemingly endless digressions of Henze's single-movement sonata.

HERE it is again: the annual new year parade of outstanding young performers showing off the pleasures and perils of 20th-century music, nearly all of it this time by living composers and dating from the last decade or so. It is an encouraging display of faith in the present, though it was not altogether matched by the composers represented on the first evening. The Three Pieces for viola and piano by Detlev Glanert, who was born in 1960, could have been

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CONCERT

Park Lane Group Young Artists Purcell Room

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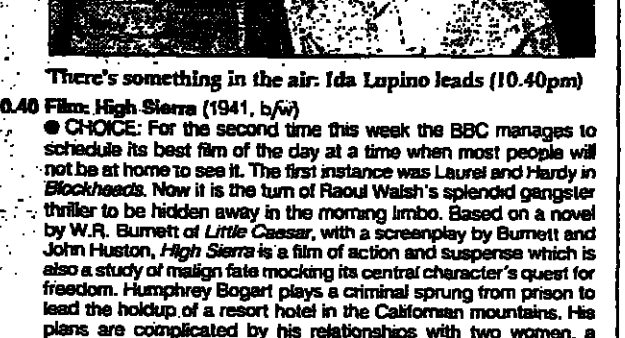
6.00 Ceefax (94392) **6.30** Breakfast News (60541881)
9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Green and guests discuss whether the British are obsessed with sex (462154)
9.50 Hot Chefs. Oliver Hodge cooks braised shank of venison with onion and beef gravy (2789883)
10.00 News. Regional news and weather (8167327) **10.05** Playdays (3634779) **10.25** Pearly. Family style show (s) (1446822)
11.00 News. Regional news and weather (8167327) **11.05** Holkley. Anna Rice goes mountain biking in Wales (s) (7079633) **11.20** People Today with advice on how to cope with stress (5531021)
12.00 News. Regional news and weather (8167327) **12.20** Pearly. Anna Rice goes mountain biking in Wales (s) (7079633) **12.25** Pearly. Anna Rice goes mountain biking in Wales (s) (7079633)
1.00 O'Clock News and weather (8167327) **1.05** Holkley. Anna Rice goes mountain biking in Wales (s) (7079633)
1.50 Going for Gold. Britain's general knowledge quiz (7937943)
2.15 Hattie. Fire-Of Death. American police series (1423779)
2.35 Primetime. David Jacobs searches out the best holiday deals for the older generation (8167327) **2.45** Pearly. Anna Rice goes mountain biking in Wales (s) (7079633)
3.50 Bananas. Cartoon (s) (4083555) **3.55** Caterpillar Trail. Nature series (s) (6955448) **4.10** Pearly. Anna Rice goes mountain biking in Wales (s) (7079633)
4.15 The Chocolate Factory (1070243) **4.35** Bucky O'Hara. Cartoon space adventures (9457565) **5.00** Newsround (192448)



Morgan Jones has the screws on Jamie De Courcy (5.10pm)

5.10 Archer. (s) (7079633)
5.15 CHOICE. We soon know who the Goon is. He is an empty built thug who turns up in the kitchen of the offbeat Sykes family and refuses to leave until his demands are met. These have to do with dad played by Roger Lloyd-Pack, unusually cast as a totally nice guy and mysterious sessions at the typewriter. There are several enigmas in this lively version of Diana Wynne Jones's 1985 comedy thriller. Not least of which is the identity of the Archer who employs the Goon. With five more episodes to come, it has all the makings of an excellent children's drama, strongly cast with an ingenious plot and plenty happening. Among the better-known names such as Lloyd-Pack, Susan Jameson and Clive Merrison, young Jamie De Courcy is shaping well as the Sykes's 13-year-old son, who turns detective to solve the mystery. (Ceefax) (s) (7079633)
5.35 Neighbours. (s) (561224). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News. (Oracle) (Weather) (359)
6.30 Regional news magazines (811). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (s) (Ceefax)
7.00 Togan. Terry is joined by Loyd Grossman and 13-year-old violinist Vanessa Adams (s) (1029)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. The jolly science magazine reports from Sweden on robot re-fueling: a fully automated petrol pump, and looks at Canary Wharf in east London. (Ceefax) (s) (595)
8.00 Only Fools and Horses: Yuppy Love. An early episode of John Sullivan's priceless comedy about the south London wheeler-dealers. Starring David Jason, Nicholas Lyndhurst and Buster Merryfield (s) (583552)
8.55 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour party (583665)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Oracle). Regional news and weather (8448)
9.30 Dynasty: The Reunion. Two years after the abrupt end of the Carrington-Coby saga, Dynasty fans can watch the first of a two-part mini-series designed to tie up the loose ends. Starring John Collins, John Forsythe, Linda Evans. Concludes tomorrow at 9.30pm. (Ceefax) (s) (84155)
11.00 Film: Perfect (1985). Pressing romantic comedy starring John Travolta as a reporter planning an exposé of Los Angeles health clubs, whose involvement with an aerobic instructor (Jamie Lee Curtis) leads to a clash of joyrides. Directed by James Bridges. (641871). Wales: Film '92. Special. (1653). 11.30pm-1.25am Film: Perfect (1985) 12.55am Newsround (822026)

5.00 Breakfast News (1640040)
5.15 Cat Wally. Further (s) (462154) **5.25** The Travel Show Traveller. John Thirwell visits the Greek island of Kos (8247359)
9.00 Film: This Land is Mine (1943, b/w). Charles Laughton as a timid schoolteacher, living in Nazi-occupied France, who is rescued to patriotic fervour. An intriguing, if minor, work by the great French director Jean Renoir (32757392)
10.40 Film: High Sierra (1941, b/w)
11.00 CHOICE. For the second time this week the BBC manages to schedule its best film of the day at a time when most people will not be at home to see it. The first instance was Laurel and Hardy in Blockade. Now it is the turn of Raoul Walsh's splendid gangster thriller to be hidden away in the morning limbo. Based on a novel by W.R. Burnett of Little Caesar, with a screenplay by Burnett and John Huston, High Sierra is a film of action and suspense which is also a study of malign fate making its central character's quest for freedom. Humphrey Bogart plays a criminal sprung from prison to lead the holdup of a resort hotel in the California mountains. His plans are complicated by his relationship with two women, a clubbinger girl (Jean Leslie) and a dance-hall singer (Ida Lupino). The soaring peaks of the Sierras are used as an ironic backdrop to a drama which builds inexorably to its tragic climax (91520430)
12.15 Underneath: Steamerhead. V. Film about the world's largest single-masted vessel (s) (553055)
12.30 A Year in the Life 20 Years On - Big Deal Group. The story of pop group Big Deal who hoped to become as famous as the Beatles (s) (8642534) **1.20** Pigeon Street. Cartoon (s) (61618205)
1.35 Ken Hom's Chinese Cookery: Fish. Hom prepares steamed fish with garlic, spring onions and ginger (s) (60497750)
2.00 News and weather (1578004). Country file (s) (5388885)
2.25 World Darts. Highlights of yesterday's second round matches (s) (6115330). incl. 3.00 News and weather, and at 3.50 News and weather, regional news and weather
4.40 Behind the Headlines. Linda Agran discusses erotic television programming and attitudes to pornography (5561358)
5.10 News. The Shadow of Breast Cancer (s) (Ceefax) (s) (7508334)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation - The Hunted. The further adventures of the starship Enterprise. (Ceefax) (993446)
6.50 Def It Rapido. Norman explores the development of rap (s) (562576)
7.45 Behind the Belongs. A profile, first shown on The Late Show, of the Hungarian architect and designer (s) (145155)
8.05 Bookmarks: Dostoevsky's Travels. A funny-sad film in which Dmitri Dostoevsky follows in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, Fyodor, and leaves St Petersburg for western Europe. His ambition is to buy a second-hand Mercedes (s) (604008)
9.00 Film: Labyrinth (1986). Simple-minded science-fiction comedy from Hans Koning, starring Mara Heyman as an employee of a sinister corporation developing a powerful laser weapon. Directed by Peter Wang. With English dialogue and subtitles (504562)
10.25 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour party (s) (506446)
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (82335)
11.15 News. Eamonn Holmes introduces the quarter final (78392)
11.55 Behind the Headlines (s) (455514) **12.25am** Newsround (532460)



There's something in the air. Ida Lupino leads (10.40pm)

10.40 Film: High Sierra (1941, b/w)
11.00 CHOICE. For the second time this week the BBC manages to schedule its best film of the day at a time when most people will not be at home to see it. The first instance was Laurel and Hardy in Blockade. Now it is the turn of Raoul Walsh's splendid gangster thriller to be hidden away in the morning limbo. Based on a novel by W.R. Burnett of Little Caesar, with a screenplay by Burnett and John Huston, High Sierra is a film of action and suspense which is also a study of malign fate making its central character's quest for freedom. Humphrey Bogart plays a criminal sprung from prison to lead the holdup of a resort hotel in the California mountains. His plans are complicated by his relationship with two women, a clubbinger girl (Jean Leslie) and a dance-hall singer (Ida Lupino). The soaring peaks of the Sierras are used as an ironic backdrop to a drama which builds inexorably to its tragic climax (91520430)
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11.55 Behind the Headlines (s) (455514) **12.25am** Newsround (532460)

Video Plus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details, call VideoPlus on 0800 121234 (calls charged at 10p per minute, 30p per call) or write to VideoPlus, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+, VideoPlus and Video Programmer are trademarks of Genstar Marketing Ltd.

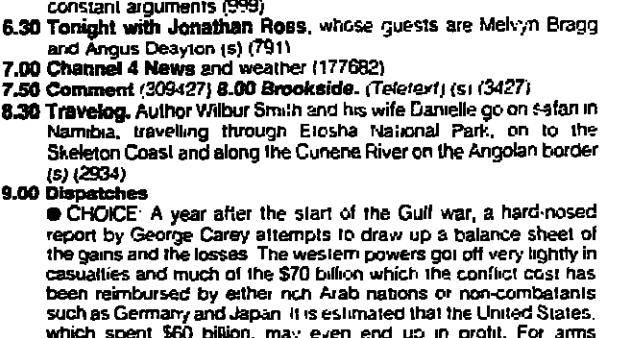
5.00 TV-am (683516)
5.25 Keynotes. Music quiz (6533408) **5.55** Thames News (6278954)
10.00 The Times. The Place. Topical discussion programme (5322789) **10.40** This Morning (4452553) incl. 10.55 ITN News headlines, and at 11.55 Thames News
12.10 Allsorts. The children's programme looks at snakes (s) (9884750)
12.30 ITN News with John Sutherland. Weather (5456866) **1.10** Thames News (3800686)
1.20 Home and Away. (Oracle) (6141775)
1.50 A Country Practice. Australian medical drama (s) (60401953)
2.20 Snooker. Nick Owen introduces coverage of the quarter-finals of the Mercantile Credit Classic (1422404) **3.15** ITN News headlines (4031088) **3.20** Thames News headlines (4021801)
3.25 The Young Doctors (6380040)
3.55 Captain Zed and the Zee Zone. Cartoon (9150205) **4.20** Finders Keepers. Game show (408427) **4.50** Owl TV. Michael Strachan introduces a new series of the wildlife and environmental magazine programme (4257717)
5.10 Blockbusters. Bob Holmes hosts the general knowledge quiz for losers (605514)
5.40 ITN News with Carol Bannister. Weather (749175)
5.55 Thames Help (s) (260804) **6.00** Home and Away (s) (Oracle) (427)
7.00 This is Your Life. Michael Aspel opens his red book to reveal the life story of another unsuspecting celebrity (s) (6137)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (653)
8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. Des is joined by Freddie Starr. Lesley Joseph of Birds of a Feather. Wet Wet Wet and comic poet Mark Hutter (s) (6001)



In the deep Siberian winter: struggling for survival (9.00pm)

9.00 Survival Special: The Nature of Russia
9.05 CHOICE. With this edition from Siberia's long-running documentary series offers its first film shot in the former Soviet Union. The Nature of Russia is unusual for another reason: it is not a plea for wildlife in danger. Most Survival programmes, as the title of the series suggests, are about highlighting threats to rare species. But in Siberia, it seems, the main danger to animals is from other animals and not, for a change, from human beings. The film is therefore a portrait rather than a polemic, though this does not diminish its impact. The work of a brave and hardy camera team led by Richard Kemp, the programme moves vividly through the seasons and from the tundra plains to the greatest forest on Earth. Along the way it offers splendid footage of reindeer and geese, of Arctic foxes and snowy owls, trying to survive in their different ways, sometimes at the expense of each other (3137)
10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour party (74791)
10.05 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Alistair Stewart. (Oracle) (Weather) (583555) **10.35** Thames News (51576)
10.45 Thames Sport Special. Tony Francis introduces football from the Rumblescup quarter-finals, and a Mercantile Credit Classic quarter-final snooker match (5153243)
11.20 Film: Phobias (1985). Mashed murder mystery starring Stacey and Hattie's Paul Michael Gleeson as a psychiatrist, whose phobic patients are murdered one by one. Directed by a way-below-film John Huston (102083)
11.55 America's Top Ten. Casey Kasem reviews the ten best-selling singles of 1991 in the United States (s) (8751248)
12.40 Identification (5570053)
1.00 Celtic Night. Pub and clubs team quiz (8552644)
3.40 Stephen King's This is Horror. The horror novelist explores how monsters are designed to evoke our everyday fears (s) (6330888)
4.10 Along the Cotswold Way: Leaving Bath. Clive Gurnall travels from Bath to Chipping Campden (s) (2020426)
4.40 Fifty Years On. Archive newsreel from early January 1942 (5635555)
5.00 Survival. To Survival. Two more stories about people struggling to survive against the odds (55733)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (83880). Ends at 6.00

6.00 Channel 4 Daily (6834156)
9.25 Film: Vice Versa (1947, b/w). Clever satirical farce, written and directed by Peter Ustinov about a Victorian father and his son who swap bodies. Starring Roger Livesey and Anthony Newley (9152559)
11.20 Pete Smith Specialities: Now You See It. Director Richard Cassell's short reveals the wonders of the world filmed through a microscope (2471885)
11.30 Kingdom of the Deep: Krakatoa - The Day That Shook the World. Cameraman Dieter Plage records how nature has re-established itself on Krakatoa, the volcanic island that was devastated in August 1883 (s) (657540)
12.30 Business Daily (73653) **1.00** Sesame Street (55065)
2.00 Film: Saratoga Trunk (1943, b/w). Heavy-gothic melodrama about an illegitimate daughter (Ingrid Bergman) who returns to 1875 New Orleans to avenge her dead mother. With Gary Cooper and Flora Robson. Directed by Sam Wood (561446)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley and Carol Vorderman present the quick-fire word game. With Bill Tidy in the dictionary corner (s) (576)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The Follow-Up Show. Oprah talks to people whose lives have changed after they have watched or appeared on her show (1232755)
5.55 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon adventures (s) (844886)
6.00 Kate and Allie: Marriage Counsellor. Divorcees Kate (Susan Saint James) and Allie (Jane Curtin) seek a remedy for their constant arguments (999)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. whose guests are Melvyn Bragg and Angus Deayton (s) (791)
7.00 Channel 4 News and weather (177882)
7.50 Comment (30427) **8.00** Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (3427)
8.30 Travelogue. Author Vilbur Smith and his wife Danielle go on safari in Namibia, travelling through Etosha National Park, on to the Skeleton Coast and along the Cunene River on the Angolan border (s) (2934)
9.00 Dispatches
9.05 CHOICE. A year after the start of the Gulf war, a hard-nosed report by George Carey attempts to draw up a balance sheet of the gains and the losses. The western powers got off very lightly in casualties and much of the \$70 billion which the conflict cost has been reimbursed by either rich Arab nations or non-combatants such as Germany and Japan. It is estimated that the United States, which spent \$50 billion, may even end up in profit. For arms salesmen, the war was a huge piece of free publicity. Another winner, arguably, is Saddam Hussein, still in power with his personal position even stronger. Losers include Saddam's people, with a death toll possibly as high as 350,000, and the Kurds and Shiites butchered by Saddam after abortive risings. Carey also looks at the long-term effects, on oil prices, the environment and the stability of the Middle East (539069)



Tune in, turn off: Alan Summers hits the rooftop (9.45pm)

9.45 He-Play: Aerial. The first in a new series of plays by writers new to television. In Peter Muller's story, a teenager (Alan Summers) tries to attract the attention of his television-obsessed parents (710330)
10.00 An Angel at My Table. The second of a three-part dramatisation of Jane Campion's trilogy based on the autobiographies of the New Zealand writer Janet Frame. While at university, Janet (Kerry Fox) is diagnosed schizophrenic and is committed to a mental institution. (Teletext) (4856)
11.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. First of 13 repeated episodes of the award-winning newsroom comedy. The team reviews its coverage of the Gulf war (s) (874563)
11.35 The 29th Club. Contestants venture in front of an audience at the Hackney Empire (871953)
12.35am Tonight with Jonathan Ross (s) (1473335)
1.00 Dick Spanner. A new puppet series created by Gerry Anderson of Thunderbirds, following the adventures of New York private eye Dick Spanner (816583). Ends at 1.10

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.25-7.00pm. Anglia News (253858)
BORDER
As London except: 5.10-5.40pm. Home and Away (808514) **6.00** Local Newsround (770) **6.25** Local Newsround (770) **6.50** Local Newsround (770) **7.00** Local Newsround (770) **7.25** Local Newsround (770) **7.50** Local Newsround (770) **8.00** Local Newsround (770) **8.25** Local Newsround (770) **8.50** Local Newsround (770) **9.00** Local Newsround (770) **9.25** Local Newsround (770) **9.50** Local Newsround (770) **10.00** Local Newsround (770) **10.25** Local Newsround (770) **10.50** Local Newsround (770) **11.00** Local Newsround (770) **11.25** Local Newsround (770) **11.50** Local Newsround (770) **12.00** Local Newsround (770) **12.25** Local Newsround (770) **12.50** Local Newsround (770) **1.00** Local Newsround (770) **1.25** Local Newsround (770) **1.50** Local Newsround (770) **2.00** Local Newsround (770) **2.25** Local Newsround (770) **2.50** Local Newsround (770) **3.00** Local Newsround (770) **3.25** Local Newsround (770) **3.50** Local Newsround (770) **4.00** Local Newsround (770) 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THE TIMES BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

19

Sale advisers spent £115m to support BT share price

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE government's advisers have spent about £115 million supporting the share price of BT in the rocky market conditions that have prevailed in the month since the £5 billion-plus sale of part of the government's holding.

SG Warburg, the main adviser to the deal, said yesterday it had bought a further 22.5 million shares out of the government's holding since the sale, leaving the Treasury with a residual stake of about 22 per cent in the company.

In all, 1,597.5 million shares were sold by the government. Warburg is giving no details of its operations in the market as

part of the share support mechanism, or stabilisation process, but market-watchers believe the support has been significant.

Under the terms of the share sale, Warburg was given the option of going short in BT shares and then buying in the market as sellers appeared, the balance of its short position to be satisfied by purchases from the Treasury.

It was expected that a maximum of 118 million government shares, excluding those on offer in the sale, would be made available to square Warburg's books. The fact that the broker has announced purchases of an extra 22.5 million, market-watchers say, suggests it has bought 95.5 million in the market from sellers of the

part-paid stock. At a price of 120p, around the lowest level at which the shares traded, such purchases would have cost £115 million.

Warburg also announced how the 547.5 million BT shares sold to institutional investors had been allocated. British institutions took almost two thirds, but one surprise was the poor showing of the Japanese, keen buyers in other big privatisations.

The scandals on the Tokyo market and self-imposed bans from trading by most of the big Japanese finance houses meant the country as a whole was allocated just 29 million shares.

The unusual price stabilisation mechanism, effectively a legalised share support scheme, was put in place to avoid an abrupt dive in the BT share price caused by speculative short-term selling that would have deprived investors of any profits.

The government was as keen to avoid this as it was to prevent any repetition of the huge and politically embarrassing premiums available from earlier big state asset sales, such as the electricity distributors and generators.

Government advisers to the BT sale were professing themselves pleased with the operation of the share support scheme, which seems likely to be followed in any subsequent privatisations. The law relating to stamp duty as paid on stock market

transactions had to be altered during the sale to allow the scheme to go ahead. The part-paid shares have held up during the difficult market conditions since early December, and retail investors who paid 110p a share are showing a 14 per cent profit before dealing costs.

A total of 635 million part-paid shares have been traded since dealings started on December 9, the presumed Warburg buying accounting for about 15 per cent.

The question exercising the minds of City analysts is how far, if at all, the shares will fall now the prop of the share support mechanism has been removed.

Tempus, page 22

TODAY IN BUSINESS

MOTOR FEARS



Jimmy Airle, of the AEU, shares widespread fears that the motor industry faces another eight months of recession
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CRITICISM

Norman Lamont's economic forecasts will attract criticism at today's meeting of the National Economic Development Council
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JOBS CUT



Lord Tombs, chairman of Rolls-Royce, confirmed the closure of the Levensden plant, with the loss of 1,070 jobs
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ROAD TO REFORM

As Russia embarks on the road to economic reform, Wolfgang Münchau reviews the progress of other Soviet bloc countries
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CEMENT ENQUIRY



Sir Leon Brittan has ordered an investigation into alleged cement cartels involving Blue Circle, Rugby and Castle Cement
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Sales at Boots bode ill for retailers

BY MATTHEW BOND

A MIXED set of sales figures from Boots has prompted fears that the pre-Christmas sales period was disappointing for retailers. Analysts said the third-quarter data indicated that any recovery this year would be slower than expected.

Shares in an already nervous retail sector fell as a result of the news from Boots, whose disappointment was not immediately obvious. The figures for the three months to end-December showed sales at Boots The Chemist rising by an apparently healthy 4.5 per cent. Sales at the rest of Boots' retail division - including Childrens World, Halfords and AG Stanley - rose 5.2 per cent.

Sir James Blyth, group

chairman, said: "Although falling some way short of our targets, this is a good result, taking into account the tough economic climate and the very heavy discounting in the retail market place."

Analysts pointed out, however, that in November Sir James had announced second-quarter sales growth of 6 per cent and had reported the first signs of recovery. These latest figures, therefore, indicated that the pace of improvement was slowing.

Paul Morris, retail analyst at Goldman Sachs, said the figures provided evidence that any recovery this year would be more modest than expected and that growth in consumption would be lower than previously forecast.

There was also concern, particularly for the Halford

and AG Stanley subsidiaries, which operate in the competitive car accessory and home improvement markets, that any increase in sales could only have been achieved at the expense of margins, as stores cut prices to attract customers.

Paul Smiddy, of Kleinwort Benson Securities, yesterday cut his current year forecast for Boots by £7 million to £365 million, but emphasised that most companies would be hit by the impact of pre-Christmas price discounting.

He said: "I think for many retailers it will be gross profits that will be below target in November and December rather than sales." Shares in Boots reacted calmly to the figures, falling 3½p to 421p.

Boots has had first-hand experience of discounting at Do-It-All, the DIY superstore chain owned jointly with WH Smith. In the third quarter, sales at Do-It-All fell 13 per cent, with the chain unable to participate in the discount war being waged by B&Q and Texas, the market leaders. However, since Christmas, Do-It-All's own price cuts produced a doubling in sales in the first week.

Fears about the inevitable effect on margins knocked shares in WH Smith, 16p lower at 423p, despite separate figures from Boots showing strong growth in pre-recorded videos, recorded music and computer games, areas in which WH Smith is traditionally strong.

AG Stanley, whose high street paint and wallpaper stores trade as F&S, saw like-for-like sales fall 3.5 per cent, providing further evidence of the tough conditions for sales of anything linked to the housing market.

Like-for-like sales at Halfords, which sells car accessories and bicycles, rose 2.5 per cent. However, there was a more encouraging performance at Childrens World, the out-of-town toy specialist, that produced like-for-like growth of 6 per cent and a total growth in sales of 13.6 per cent.

Body Shop International lost ground in the wake of the Boots' figures which, although showing good growth in the sale of personal care items, revealed a flat performance for beauty products. Body Shop shares closed 15p down at 337p.

Diary, page 23

Stock market, page 22

Whessoe rights to raise £8m

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

WHESOE, the Durham instrumentation and engineering group, is making a one-for-four rights issue at 185p a share to raise £8.1 million to help pay for a \$21 million takeover in America that will make it a world leader in various products.

Whessoe is buying Varec group, of California, a division of Rosemount, itself a subsidiary of Emerson Electric, which had net assets of \$6.4 million on September 30 and which earned pre-interest and pre-tax profits of \$2.2 million in the 1991 financial year, against \$1.6 million in 1990.

Many Varec products are complementary, and the combination of the two companies would give the enlarged group an estimated 32 per cent of the world market in tank level gauges.

Chris Fleetwood, Whessoe's chief executive, said Varec's range also included implements for controlling hazardous vapours inside storage tanks, in which Varec was also a world leader.

George Duncan, the Whessoe chairman, said the deal gives the group an important foothold in America, and 40 per cent of group turnover would be generated there.

Tempus, page 22

Prague link for Air France

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIR France is to help privatise and develop Czechoslovakia's state-owned airline through a "commercial and technical partnership" created yesterday between the two.

Air France was one of several European airlines approached by Československé Aerolinie (CSA) as part of its search for cash and expertise in building a new fleet and service network.

CSA, in common with state-owned airlines in Hungary, Poland and Romania, is inefficient and loses money heavily, although much of it is obscured in official government accounting. All are now seeking western backing and help and the Czechoslovakian deal is likely to be followed by others in the coming months.

Although, at first sight, few of the airlines have any intrinsic value to the slimmed down western aviation industry, their airports provide the possibility for development.

CSA employs more than 5,000 people and last year carried more than two million passengers. Air France, together with a number of other, mainly French, investors, will take a 40 per cent shareholding in CSA, with the Czech government holding the remaining 60 per cent. The deal values CSA at \$150 million. Bernard Attali, chairman of Air France, said last night: "Our co-operation

with CSA represents a significant element in Air France's strategy, whose aim is to develop in Europe and worldwide a network based on a few significant gateways."

Oldrich Churain, CSA director general, said: "This al-

liance represents an excellent platform for CSA's future development as an airline based in the heart of Europe and for Prague as a major hub."

Reform fatigue, page 23

Maine-Tucker

Recruitment Consultants

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Lonrho director joins Vestey's

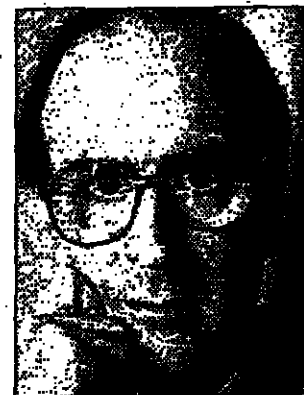
BY MATTHEW BOND

WHATEVER else it might be, life at Lonrho, the international trading company, could never be described as dull. The business style of Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive and patriarch, has always been to that.

But the same buccannery style of wheeler-dealing that has never left Mr Rowland or the company he runs short of enemies, normally inspires the fiercest loyalty among his lieutenants. That loyalty makes defections rare.

Just such an event occurred yesterday when Terry Robinson, a main board director and one of Mr Rowland's most widely admired lieutenants, jumped ship.

A Lonrho career that has spanned 20 years and the still unresolved Harrods



Robinson: challenges

saga, the successful repelling of Alan Bond and the extraordinary wooing of Brent Walker is likely to prove invaluable in Mr Robinson's new job as chief executive of Union International, the

troubled private company that is the mainstay of the Vestey empire.

Certainly Union International offers the sort of challenges Mr Robinson's former boss would relish. The company has said that, following falls in the value of its commercial property portfolio, it is in breach of its banking covenants and that it is in talks with its bankers over some £400 million of debt.

Mr Robinson admitted his Lonrho experience would help. "Union International does have considerable parallels with Lonrho, operating as it does in an agri-industrial trading environment and in the developing world. The principal difference is that Union International does face some financial difficulties. I thought it was an ideal opportunity to apply some of

the lessons I learned at Lonrho."

The characteristically abrupt announcement of Mr Robinson's departure with immediate effect from Lonrho prompted initial concern among Lonrho watchers, well aware that the company has figures due out shortly. However, the soothing words emanating from Cheapside proved quickly effective. Paul Beaufre of James Capel said: "Terry will undoubtedly be missed, but I don't think that his departure signals anything alarming."

Mr Robinson was also keen to play down any suggestions that his departure was prompted by anything other than a very good offer from Union International. "There is always regret at leaving a company where you have been for 20 years."

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8785 (+0.0045)
German mark 2.8478 (-0.0044)
Exchange index 91.5 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1904.1 (-2.4)
FT-SE 100 2482.9 (-10.3)
New York Dow Jones 3205.05 (+4.92)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23566.39 (-234.79)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Rate 10½%
3-month interbank 10½-10½%
3-month eligible bills 10½-10½%
US: Prime Rate 6½%
Federal Funds 5½%
3-month Treasury Bill 3.77-3.78%
30-year bonds 10½-10½%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£1/\$1.8785
£1/DM2.8483
£1/Sfr2.5253
£1/FF16.7204
£1/Yen235.25
£1/Indo91.5
ECU £0.715759
£/ECU1.397400
London: Hong Kong
£1/\$1.8785
£1/DM2.8483
£1/Sfr2.5253
£1/FF16.7204
£1/Yen235.25
£1/Indo91.5
ECU £0.715759
£/ECU1.397400

GOLD

London: Fixing
AM \$346.30 pm \$348.70
close \$349.50-350.00 (£186.50-187.00)
New York: Comex \$350.15-350.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$18.65 bbl (\$18.50)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 November (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

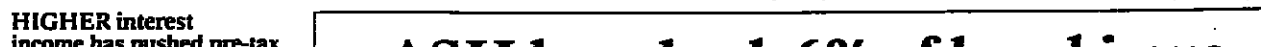
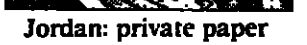
هنا من الهم

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

A confidential paper tabled by the CBI for tomorrow's

In a separate move, the CBI is putting forward at the NEDC meeting its proposals for the revitalisation of Britain's manufacturing industry, including refocusing the work of the trade and industry department and restructuring the NEDC and its supporting organisation.

Alternative recommendations on Britain's engineering industry will be tabled by Ian Gibson and Bill Jordan, respectively heads of Nissan, the Japanese-owned British motor manufacturer, and the AEU engineering union. Their joint confidential document see no reason why British industry cannot adopt the successful practices of the Japanese and other inward investment companies that have set up in Britain.



BY MARTIN WALLER

The burglar alarm and security monitoring company has taken advantage of a slump in the value of the bonds that has mirrored a similar slide in the price of the ordinary shares. The latter

The bonds, issued at par at 100p and converting at 250p, have been bought in at a little more than 60p, at which they yield 16 per cent, allowing the company to swap debt at that high rate for borrowings at more normal bank

rates. Market watchers expect ASH to continue to buy, believing the group is responding to approaches by disappointed holders. John Houlihan, at Hoare Govett the broker, said the bond issue was attractively priced at the time of issue, and the company was taking advantage of the sustained bear raid on the ordinary shares since then. He believes worries about debt are overdone.

[illegible]

Car makers see no sign of recovery until August

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE motor industry faces a further eight months of recession unless the government implements measures to revive sales quickly.

Figures published yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed that sales of new cars slumped 20.74 per cent last year to 1,592,326, in the worst setback on record for the industry. Sales of commercial vehicles last year also fell 28.8 per cent to 209,021, underlining a dramatic reversal of fortunes.

From record sales in 1989, the motor industry has lost showroom sales of 700,000 new cars, worth £5.5 billion, last year. Although car companies predict a slight upturn this year, they believe it will not come until August. British

air's biggest manufacturing industry seems certain to be condemned to another long period of depressed sales, similar to 1991, which saw huge cutbacks as sales fell steeply.

Sir Hal Miller, the SMMT's chief executive, said: "Such a large fall in domestic sales is extremely serious for the motor industry in Britain. The immediate outlook is bleak and this situation will persist until there is an upturn in the national economy or until measures are taken to ease the excessive level of taxation, which affects both the industry and its customers."

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is under pressure to relax the tax burden on the industry and motorists, which has increased dramatically over the past five years.

Jimmy Airlie, national officer of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "Car sales give a clear indication of the state of the economy, so it is obvious to everyone except the Chancellor that the economy is in crisis."

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, said: "The motor industry is a critical part of our manufacturing base and today's figures show clearly that the economy is still in deep recession and highlights the need for immediate government action."

Ford, Britain's biggest car company, which sold more than 500,000 new cars in 1990, sold only 386,000 last year and also saw its market share drop from 25.25 per cent to 24.24 per cent.

Allan Gilmour, the president of Ford in Detroit on the eve of the city's North American Motor Show, said yesterday: "We were fully depressed in the UK. The responsibility and the opportunity is now on us to do a damn good job."

Vauxhall saw sales slip from 323,000 to 248,704 and its market share fell slightly to 15.62 per cent. Although Rover and Peugeot Talbot lost sales, both improved their market share. Rover from 14.01 per cent to 14.40 per cent and Peugeot Talbot from 6.16 per cent to 7.26 per cent.

The brunt of the recession was borne by Jaguar and Rolls-Royce, the luxury car makers. Sales of Rolls-Royces and Bentleys fell from 1,007 to 513 while Jaguar sales fell from 10,664 to 5,809.

Britain's best-selling cars in 1991 were:

1. Ford Fiesta (117,181);
2. Ford Escort (110,302);
3. Vauxhall Cavalier (109,545);
4. Vauxhall Astra (93,650);
5. Vauxhall Astra (71,437);
6. Rover 200 series (68,122);
7. Rover Metro (60,361);
8. Peugeot 205 (46,615);
9. Vauxhall Nova (44,751);
10. Peugeot 405 (41,296).

Three firms to shed 1,500 jobs through cost cutting

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE haemorrhage of jobs from British industry resumed yesterday when three companies confirmed plans to shed more than 1,500 employees.

The largest cuts are at Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, which confirmed plans to close its Levensden plant, in Hertfordshire, which employs 1,070 staff making helicopter engines.

Rolls had deferred the closure, announced by Lord Tombs, the chairman, last May, to review union proposals to restructure operations in order to restore the fortunes of the site and maintain employment.

Chris Fairhead, managing director of the plant, acknowledged the "substantial effort" that had gone into preparing the union plan, but added: "Sadly, after careful evaluation by the company, it has been concluded that the plans were not financially viable."

Mr Fairhead said cuts in defence spending had reduced orders. The volume of work for the plant had halved over the past five years, and was set to fall by a further third in the next four years.

Work carried out at Levensden will be transferred to other Rolls plants by the end of 1993. Efforts will be made to offer work elsewhere within the company. Employees and their representatives were told of the decision yesterday. The job cuts are part of a programme to shed 6,000 jobs to improve the company's competitiveness with overseas rivals.

British Steel confirmed its intention to reduce the number of direct employees at its Shotton plant in North Wales, by 219 before the end of the year. About 150 of the workers are expected to be re-employed by contractors who will be hired to carry out a range of services.

The British Steel job losses are part of an accelerated drive to cut costs by Europe's biggest steel maker. Almost every British Steel plant is trying to reduce numbers, which fell to 47,000 in the six months to end-September.

British Steel has been seeking cost cuts because of a slump in the price of steel throughout Europe over the past two years. The company estimates that the price of flat-rolled products, a benchmark for steel prices, has fallen 20 per cent since 1989.

Earlier this month, British Steel followed Usinor Sacilor, its French rival, in reducing



Deepest cut: Lord Tombs, Rolls-Royce's chairman

is discounts by 4 to 5 per cent in an effort to restore profit margins.

In North Wales, Denis Ferranti announced the loss of 250 jobs, almost half of the workforce, at its Bangor factory because long-term defence and telecommunications contracts have come to an end.

Computer systems will replace the abacus

UK team updates China banks

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CHINA's primitive banking industry is about to be catapulted into the 21st century with the arrival of a team of British consultants, funded by the World Bank, to overhaul its payment systems.

Until now, the country's clearing and payments system have relied heavily on the abacus and personal contact. Bankers in each regional town meet in central halls to swap cheques, calculate the difference and often settle it in cash, as happened in Britain 40 years ago.

Long distance cash transfers can go hopelessly astray, in a country where letters can take a month to arrive and telexes may reach their destination four days late. The design of cheques varies and can be almost impossible to cash in different regions. Seven years ago, this deficiency was scarcely noticed when all of China's commercial life was dominated by the People's Bank. Since then the People's Bank has adopted a central bank role, while several of its divisions have been floated as separate institutions, including the Agricultural Bank, the People's Construction Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank.

The Chinese government has realised that it urgently needs to update the country's payment systems to allow funds to flow freely between the banks and around the country to stimulate economic growth.

The World Bank has appointed PA Consulting Group, the management and technology consultant, to modernise the system, assisted by Ernst & Young, the

accountant and Clifford Chance, the solicitor. The consortium won the £1 million contract against international opposition including Logica, Price Waterhouse, Arthur Andersen and Merrill Lynch.

The group will spend 15 months preparing a report on its recommendations for the new system: it is likely to incorporate the Chinese government's own pilot scheme which uses a satellite link between the country's main cities.

Brian Allison, the head of PA's team said the whole project is likely to take more than ten years to implement. "There is a strong desire in China to take all the technology the West can throw at them. But we have to get the fundamental principles in place first."

Warburg dashes recovery hopes

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S leading merchant bank has savagely downgraded its economic growth forecast for this year, deepening the gloom about the prospects for early recovery.

Warburg Securities, the broking arm of SG Warburg, now predicts that the economy will grow only 0.8 per cent this year instead of the 2 per cent it had forecast. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, conceded on Sunday that his growth forecast for 1992 would prove "somewhat over-optimistic". Warburg Securities now expects the non-oil economy to continue to decline fractionally this year.

The latest official figures yesterday showed that consumers are still keen to save, reflecting concern about rising unemployment, the weak housing market and high real interest rates. The third quarter figures appear to rule out the rapid turnaround of savings that the government had hoped would fuel economic recovery.

The corporate sector's gross trading profits, excluding North Sea oil companies, fell 2.3 per cent in the third quarter. The closely watched corporate sector financial deficit rose to £2.5 billion from £1.4 billion, suggesting sustained pressure on companies to continue to retrench rather than switch to expansion.

Michael Saunders, economist at Salomon Brothers, said: "It is hard to see where the growth is going to come from, especially with personal incomes falling." Real personal disposable incomes fell 0.2 per cent in the third quarter, having risen in the second quarter. Against the third quarter of 1990, they declined 0.6 per cent.

The decline in the personal savings ratio, which expresses savings as a share of disposable income, from the upward revised 11.2 per cent for the second quarter to 10.9 per cent for the third, was dismissed by City economists as insignificant, as the ratio remained historically high. Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International, said the ratio had probably risen again in the final quarter. The savings ratios are subject to heavy revision.

Mr Saunders said weak equity and house prices cut real personal wealth by 4.6 per cent in the fourth quarter last year. Real personal wealth, so important to consumer confidence in Britain, had fallen 14 per cent since the end of 1988, and was unchanged since mid-1987, the longest period of stagnant wealth since the mid-Seventies.

Gross profits from oil companies in the North Sea, up 22 per cent in the third quarter, provided the brightest spot in yesterday's figures, highlighting the importance of the increased offshore activity to overall recovery. If North Sea production is excluded, the British economy continued to shrink in the third quarter.

BUSINESS ROUND UP

MP calls on Major to halt Tees port sale

STUART Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, has written to the prime minister and Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, urging them to halt the £180 million sale of the port of Tees and Hartlepool. Mr Bell said the port authority's decision to accept a bid from Teesside Holdings breached the will of parliament, expressed in the Ports Act 1991. He said the authority had breached natural justice by failing to adhere to its own criteria for assessing the competing bids and had failed to treat all bidders equally.

Mr Rifkind has told parliament he is "minded" to accept the authority's recommendation that the port be sold to Teesside Holdings after government advisers assured him the sale had been properly conducted.

Simon sells subsidiary

SIMON Engineering, the engineering and industrial services group, has sold Simon Container Machinery (SCM), an American packaging machinery subsidiary, for \$6.3 million cash. Simon said that SCM did not form part of its long-term strategy, which includes developing its paper engineering group. This focuses on recycling and refurbishment in the pulp and paper industry rather than supplying the corrugated boxboard industry. SCM was acquired by SHS Handling Systems, a vehicle set up for the deal, which is backed by FMS Partners, a Cambridge investment company.

Trust boosted by rents

SUBSTANTIAL increases in rental and investment income helped Property Security Investment Trust more than double its pre-tax profits from £1.4 million to £3 million for the six months to end-September. As a result, the trust has been able to meet its forecast of a 20 per cent dividend increase to 1.5p. Rents received increased from £7.3 million to £8.6 million, while property and investment income rose from £7.6 million to £8.8 million. There was also a dealing profit of £43,000 against a dealing loss of £87,000 for the comparable period last year.

Scotch for Moscow

BURN Stewart Distillers, the Scottish whisky group and maker of Asda's own-label Scotch whisky, has set up a joint venture within the Plodimex group with VVO Sojuzplodoimport (SPI), Russia's principle import/export company, to supply Russia and other former Soviet republics with "commodities including alcoholic beverages". Burn Stewart, which was recently floated on the London Stock Exchange, has a 45 per cent stake in the joint company. Plodimex UK SPI will hold its shares through its German subsidiary, Plodimex GmbH. The new company will also import Russian vodka into Britain.

Aberdeen shake-up

RESTRUCTURING charges have left Aberdeen Trust, the financial services group, with pre-tax profits more than halved at £1.2 million for the year to the end of September. The £1.4 million exceptional item covered the costs of the closure and disposal of surplus office space, and redundancies. Operating profits were down 6 per cent at £2.6 million on reduced turnover of £10.8 million. George Robb, the chairman, said that the outlook for 1992 remained uncertain, but that the company would continue to pay strict attention to overheads. A final 1.5p dividend makes an unchanged 2.5p for the year.

Brittan takes a hard look at cement links

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan's European competition inspectorate is investigating alleged cement cartels involving Blue Circle, Rugby and Castle Cement.

Officials were yesterday reluctant to comment on the inquiry, which is focused on the early Eighties. The commission has apparently written to 76 EC cement companies, but it will not say how many it thinks were implicated.

Ian McKenzie, Blue Circle chief executive, was yesterday critical of the move, which he thinks concerns obsolete price and marketing frameworks which had in any case been cleared by British competition authorities.

A British Cement Association statement said any restrictive practices "were a matter of history". The three companies operated a so-called "common pricing and marketing arrangement" until 1987. "The CPA had been in operation for 50 years and had twice been shown not to be against public interest," Mr McKenzie said. He added that the commission had been told of the CPA in 1984. "It seems strange that it takes Brussels 8 years to decide that they don't like something," he said.

A spokeswoman for the BCA confirmed that lawyers representing the three British producers would fly to Brussels this week for talks with commission officials. "We are confident that we are not in breach and we will oppose any charges vigorously," Mr McKenzie said.

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TUE, SAT	11:00 AM	7:40 AM*
SUN	10:45 AM	7:45 AM*

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ملقا من انكل

Freeing the car market

Britain's car market has been plagued for a generation with the type of distortions that developing and former Communist countries are now trying to break down. In Britain, unlike most other countries, by far the greatest part of the demand for new cars comes from companies and others charging them to their business. This persists despite all efforts of the Inland Revenue to reduce the appeal of the company car as an alternative to pay for employees. No doubt that is partly due to the big gap between the prices paid by companies and those advertised to individuals before they start the bizarre and tedious ritual of haggling over some artificial trade-in value for their old model. That premium, in turn, depends on the control exercised by manufacturers over the retailing of their products, which has been phased out in most other trades under competition rules.

These domestic peculiarities are reinforced by the quixotic insistence of most foreigners on driving on the wrong side of the road. Continental manufacturers have to make a special conversion so that imports into Britain and Japan (the biggest right-hand drive market) can legitimately be charged at a different price from those prevailing on the importers' home markets. Britain's consumers are, therefore, insulated from any single European market in cars. Distortions even extend to the second-hand car market, where most individual car owners buy. The economics of company car fleets depends on selling into the second-hand market at prices artificially buoyed up by the "premiums" charged to individuals for new cars.

No wonder British consumers buy fewer new cars than many of their EC counterparts, and no wonder, therefore, that the market has fallen into even deeper recession than the state of the economy might dictate, as companies delay purchases to save cash. Compared with these largely self-imposed peculiarities, the 10 per cent car tax levied by the government as a relic of purchase tax could almost be classed as a minor distortion. But it is silly, counter-productive and outdated after the huge rise in the rate of value-added tax since it was imposed. The Chancellor could and should aid the car industry by lifting it in his pre-election Budget. Rather than abolish it completely, however, he would do consumers a much better turn by waiving it only until the end of the registration year in July, on the stamp duty model. Permanent abolition should depend on manufacturers and importers agreeing to reform the marketing of cars in Britain.

Spanish relief

Given that sterling is only about 0.2 per cent above its floor in the ERM, the foreign exchange market is remarkably calm. It maintained, that would be good news. The less interested dealers are in the pound the better and the longer the authorities can hold out without an interest rate rise or massive intervention, the greater the chance of some indication that German interest rates have reached their peak.

Election fever will not help in this cause. In the worst case for sterling, the electorate might ignore the government's grave warnings about Labour's financial policies, but foreign exchange dealers believe them. Any Bank of England nerves will have been aided yesterday by the peseta, which opened weaker after the Epiphany holiday. But for Spain's currency, which has topped the ERM band far more consistently than the pound has been at the bottom, there need be no sterling worries. If pressed, the Governor could rightly argue that divergence from the ERM norm is Spain's problem rather than Britain's.

Solutions to economic difficulties being felt in the West cannot be applied to the eastern states, argues Wolfgang Münchau

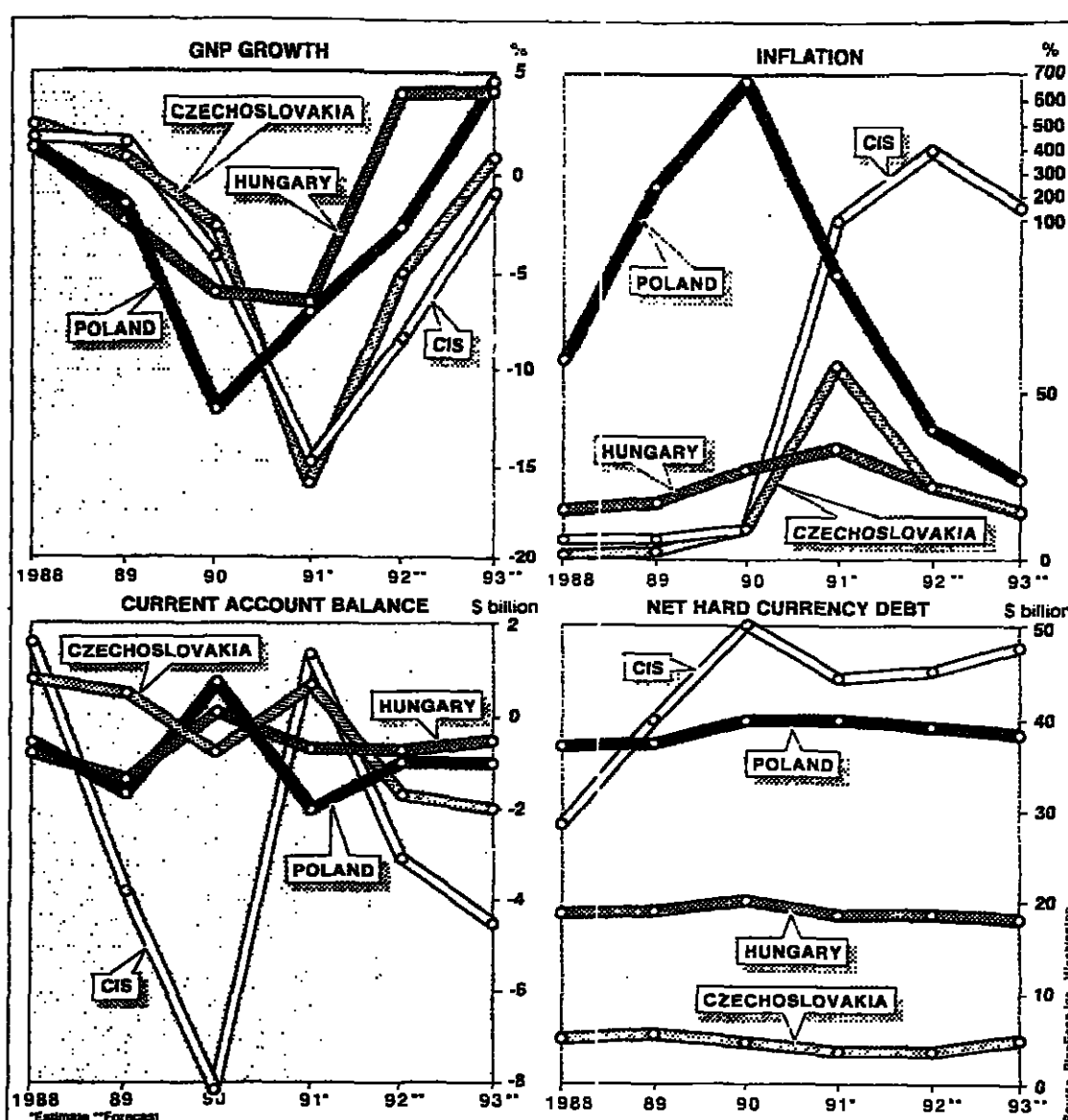
The most daunting of all economic reform programmes started in earnest last week, when Russia and some of its neighbouring republics liberalised prices for all but the most essential goods. For Russians, it marks the start of a long and arduous road towards economic reform, and it is worth remembering the recent experience of the other countries of central and eastern Europe. Circumstances may vary, but the political pattern of economic reform has been similar throughout. After a year of reform, public enthusiasm has been supplanted by scepticism, if not hostility. In Poland, the first country to have embarked on economic reform, the swing in the mood has gone furthest, with the government pronouncing a slowdown in privatisation sales. Ambition has been followed by disappointment, except that in Russia and the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), even ambition has been lacking until now.

Reform fatigue comes despite overt signs that the two years of painful adjustment are beginning to bear fruit. This year will be one in which some countries in eastern Europe will revert to positive economic growth. Since last year was the most disastrous for scepticism, European economies since the Forties, the projected recovery tells us more about 1991 than about 1992. Cynical stock market traders call such an upturn a dead-cat bounce.

The expected "upturn" also exposes a peculiar statistical phenomenon: while much of western Europe will enter or continue in recession, eastern Europe will have bounced back. Nowhere will this be more apparent than in Germany, where the east is expected to grow 10 per cent, while the west will grow little, if at all. Whatever such figures suggest, the balance between east and west has not yet turned.

The path of economic recovery will not be nearly as smooth as the forecasts suggest, mainly because of overmanning that will heavily distort labour markets. The rate of east European unemployment will have been lower during the technical recession of 1989-91 than during the subsequent "recovery" of this year and onwards, during which unemployment will grow as the economy expands.

Standard western-style concepts and solutions to economic questions are therefore best avoided, as are comparisons with other development success stories such as postwar Germany and Japan, or South Korea. In those cases, economic reform was principally a matter of macro-economic liberalisation, and then allowing free-market forces to take



their course. East Europe, by contrast, faces a double task: macro-economic liberalisation to start with, and then the plunge into the tricky micro-economic reforms, especially the privatisation of state-owned property. In the case of Poland and Czechoslovakia, this should happen on a grand scale this year with the scheduled introduction in the spring of large-scale privatisation programmes.

In contrast to the positive statistical projections, recent economic reformers have warned that the path of economic recovery will not be nearly as smooth as the forecasts suggest, mainly because of overmanning.

ports on the prospects of the east European economies give warning of impending disaster. A study by the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe concluded that east Europe is not going through a recession but a Thirties-style depression with devastating social and political consequences. The report, published last month, says: "In most countries much of the initial enthusiasm and support for

radical reforms has waned over the past year, being gradually pushed aside by disappointment, frustration and populist tendencies."

Reform fatigue can be seen everywhere. Slovakian politicians want not only independence from the Czech republic, but also a slower pace of economic reform. In Poland, Tomasz Gruszecki, head of the privatisation ministry, said that "privatisation policy must be subordinated to industrial policy," meaning a slowdown in privatisation sales. Ormously, he added that "in order to move forward you sometimes have to step back."

Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, predicts a second economic shock for east Europe this year, a collapse of the post-Soviet economies amid hyperinflation and a state of near civil war, with, in the words of David Roche, Morgan Stanley's east European director, "at best a Bonapartist, at worst an anarchic" outcome.

In every case, economic reform operates on two layers. In most of these countries, the macro-economic adjustment process started in 1990, and is now advanced. Prices have been liberalised, except for some essentials, such as food and energy supplies; moves towards foreign exchange liberalisation have begun with the introduction of internal convertibility, under which

companies are allowed freedom to convert currencies. The short-term consequence was hyperinflation, but that has subsided relatively fast.

Macro-economic reform alone is ineffective, since most of the assets remain in state ownership. The critical part is detailed reform of industry, in particular privatisation and land reform, which is much more controversial because it directly concerns jobs. The dilemma was summed up by a London merchant banker, who said: "Privatisation is a

political process, and not a corporate process, something often misunderstood in the West."

East European privatisation is not about maximising revenues to the treasury, however badly the treasury needs the money; it is about the radical establishment of private ownership, without which no market economy can work. The problem is that the electorate is prepared to accept hardship only in the short

term. The radical approach is equally fraught with dangers since it could make matters a lot worse in the short term by causing a sudden rise in unemployment. Politically, privatisation is one of the hottest issues in east European politics. The pitfalls are immense, and if privatisation goes wrong, it endangers the entire reform process.

The Germans have gone badly wrong with the *Treuhand* model of privatisation. The *Treuhand* is essentially an east European-style quango with the task of selling former state-owned combines. In the first year, about 3,000 privatisations took place, but there are now calls for the renationalisation of companies that cannot reasonably be sold.

A more considered approach has been taken in Poland, where the government is pursuing a dual strategy. Some companies are being sold directly to foreign investors. The rest will be included in a mass privatisation programme, which will allow citizens to obtain a free share in the companies. Involving the public as widely as possible is not aimed at creating a nation of private shareholders, but at gaining maximum support for the process of privatisation. The *Treuhand* model does little more than to revert to primeval capitalism by dividing the population into factory owners and workers, into haves and have-nots.

One of the few lessons from eastern Germany that can be learned by the rest of east Europe is that the majority of the workforce does not have the right skills needed in a free-market economy, despite high educational standards. The service sector, which in a typical western economy accounts for about two thirds of output, is completely underdeveloped in the east, unlike agriculture, where the implications of reform will be felt strongest.

In manufacturing industry, the trend is away from manual labour to skilled labour, which is in short supply. This mismatch between demand and supply for labour cannot be overcome in the short term. Hence, unemployment, if left to free-market forces, will rise irrespective of the level of wages.

Predictably, unemployment rises as subsidies for loss-making companies are stopped. Less obviously, the more successful the privatisation programme, the more unemployment rises. In a few cases, western investors promised to retain the entire workforce, but in most cases fewer than half of all workers, and often only a third, were retained. If a dilapidated and labour-intensive factory is replaced by modern technology, the outcome is invariably lower employment, as the most important constraint to employment is physical and not financial. Reducing the exchange rate, a standard western tool to increase international competitiveness, will not help.

In the end, success will depend on the stamina of governments, their voters, and their lifespans. At the beginning of east Europe's second full year of freedom, there are some depressing warning signs, but only time will tell if people have the patience to wait for reform to work.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

As ye sow, so shall ye reap

BEFORE Gerald Ratner, beleaguered boss of the jewellery group, makes his pronouncement about the future of the company on Friday, he should perhaps pause for a quick consultation with the Lord's Day Observance Society. According to Nelson McCausland, secretary of the society, the financial problems he now faces could be "divine judgment" for allowing his stores to trade on Sundays. Mr McCausland claims that Ratner had been "in the vanguard of the movement to defy Sunday trading laws" and, for the past two years, had opened every day, in the weeks preceding Christmas. The shops had, he says, "blatantly defied both the law of the Lord and now, within a matter of days, they face a new financial crisis." Kingfisher, Sainsbury, Safeway and Tesco, also members of that vanguard, had better beware.

Meanwhile, languishing in a nearby chalet was a certain Ian Plenderleith, who passed himself off as "a bank clerk" to one fellow guest, but is otherwise known as an associate director of the Bank of England. Plenderleith, who is the Bank's main policy maker on capital markets, was camped to a local public house to bid farewell to the old year and was later spotted in the snow-covered street writing "Millwall F.C.", "Arsenal" and "Up England" with his forefinger on the misty windscreens of several parked cars.

FAR Eastern stockbrokers be warned. Government officials in Singapore have banned chewing gum, complaining that it is too expensive and time-consuming to clean off the streets. Tourists now have to declare chewing gum at customs as they arrive and anyone found importing it faces either a maximum fine of £4,000 or a year in jail — or both.

Fame plan

IN ONE of the more unusual City moves of the new year, Sue Davison, a futures broker at James Capel, has left the firm to seek fame and fortune in the big, bright world of television. Davison, aged 27, left Cambridge four years ago with a degree in modern and medieval languages. Although she does not yet have a job to go to, she plans to put her language skills to good use on European television productions, and one of the people on her short list of potential bosses is Michael Green, of Carlton Communications. "It was a big decision to make," says Davison, who, apart from playing the piano and viola in her spare time, worked with David Anderson at Capel. Quick off the mark, Capel has made up for the loss by bringing in Simon Bridger, formerly on its Australian traded options desk in Sydney, to join the London derivatives team. Bridger, a native Australian and nicknamed "Badger" by his colleagues back home, flew in on Friday.

Room on board

WHILE banks and other venture capital funds might be repenting at leisure over some of the more expensive investments they made in the late Eighties, Grosvenor Venture Managers, the Slough investment group led by Robert Drummond, is expanding on all fronts. Drummond, aged 46, ex-31, County NatWest WoodMac, and Electra, and highly respected within the Square Mile, joined Grosvenor as managing director 18 months ago —

fortuitous timing, he agrees — and predicts that the £25 million gross Grosvenor invested in 1991 will turn out to have been money well spent. "We believe 1991 will prove to have been a good year to have invested, provided, of course, you invested in quality companies," says Drummond. "We have done a lot of rescues and buying from receivers which can be fraught. It often involves backing new management, and that is a risk, but if you get it right the rewards are high. If you get it wrong, at least you haven't paid over the top. Two or three years ago people were paying far too much." Grosvenor has just recruited two new executives and has promoted Janis Anderson (ex-Timothy Leary and Bank of Bermuda) to the position of director. "Yes, we are still recruiting," adds Drummond. "We are looking, at the moment, to recruit at director level."

Service car

MIRROR Group Newspapers' beleaguered pensioners will be interested to learn of the late Robert Maxwell's generosity when it came to members of his personal staff. Ivor Spencer, who has long run a school-turned-employment agency for butlers, reveals that he once placed a butler with Maxwell. The butler in question left Maxwell's employment a little over a year ago, after four years service. "I must say," says Spencer, "Maxwell treated him very generously. In fact one of the presents he gave him was a new BMW."

CAROL LEONARD

Pensions role for employers

From the chairman, Top Pay Research Group

Sir, Though superficially no one could disagree with Sean Hands' recommendations for tightening up the governance of pension schemes there is, even after the Maxwell affair, a more profound issue at stake.

I am involved as investor director, executive and non-executive director or adviser with a number of public and private companies, most of whom offer excellent final salary pension schemes to an increasing percentage of their staff.

These schemes look infinitely safer as a system of guaranteeing income in retirement than the money purchase schemes available as an alternative. However, if Mr Hands' recommendations are implemented whereby the employer is left with all the funding risk, effectively allowed no part in the running of their final salary scheme, and probably no chance to benefit via pension holidays for good management, many groups will close their schemes.

The UK final salary pension concept is one of the finest methods of storing and transferring wealth in retirement to non-capital owning groups. Professional fees are minimal, unlike insurance company-run schemes, but cutting off employers from any involvement other than risk will kill the whole concept. Does this really benefit future pensioners?

PETER M. BROWN, Chairman, Top Pay Research Group, Upper Ground Floor, 9 Savoy Street, WC2.

Seeking successful management development

From Mr B. Cowley

Sir, Is there any evidence that rigorous selection procedures followed by accelerated promotion improve the quality of business management decision making? Do these methods enhance the process of management?

Is it possible to educate people and assume, because they have attained high academic honours, they are automatically capable of making commonsense, workable and effective decisions?

I have been struck more than once by descriptions of ways in which organisations (including the civil service) recruit people into their management development programmes. But subsequent performance of these specially developed managers seems

not to be quite as expected. The civil service, particularly, appears to place a lot of emphasis on intellectual development, most importantly first-class honours degrees, as a prerequisite for the highest posts. The quality of decisions made only too often by government (i.e. the civil service) make me wonder what happens to these developed intellects.

Almost all UK public companies reporting profit falls, losses, declining business, stress in their annual reports and accounts their solid commitment to training and development and many refer to the effort they make to recruit the best people and to bring them on quickly. Much good it seems to do them.

Brian Pearce, chief executive of the unemployed. This is surely morally desirable from all those who, like myself, never experienced unemployment in 40 or more years of our working lives. We could also encourage both sexes to retire (sic) and draw the state pension from age 60.

Further, would not workfare by its very nature prevent the vast majority of the unemployed from seeking fulfilling

work? And who would organise and oversee workfare — Mr Shedd, perhaps? Yours faithfully, O. M. JUBB, 1 St Anne's Close, Pitville, Cheltenham.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

From Mr O. M. Jubb Sir, Mr Shedd's enthusiasm for workfare rather than welfare (January 2) must not be left in limbo without his telling us what he considers to be a realistic wage for environmental or social projects to which the unemployed would be directed.

He should also explain why those already working on such projects or in those fields should continue to be paid (and taxed) for their labours, unless, of course, their work is of an artificial variety which should logically be discontinued in order to make way for the unemployed, which would, in turn, create new unemployment.

I suggest that one partial solution to the incentive to remain unemployed would be a greater degree of workfare on the part of those with multiple jobs, or of "pensioners" who continue in employment, which denies the same

to the unemployed. This is surely morally desirable from all those who, like myself, never experienced unemployment in 40 or more years of our working lives. We could also encourage both sexes to retire (sic) and draw the state pension from age 60.

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24 EQUITY PRICES

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8 1992

Equities lack support

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 30. Dealings end on Friday. Settlement day January 20. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Barr	Breweries	
2	Br. Mohair	Textiles	
3	Grand Marnier	Breweries	
4	Scot & New	Breweries	
5	Anglo	Foodstuffs	
6	Anglian Water	Water	
7	Bilton (P)	Property	
8	ECC Group	Industrial	
9	Amersham	Chemicals	
10	Imvengam Dist.	Breweries	
11	Granada	Television	
12	Meyer Int.	Building	
13	BTP	Chemicals	
14	MTL Int.	Electrical	
15	Booker	Foodstuffs	
16	Kwik Save	Foodstuffs	
17	ITI	Industrial	
18	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	
19	Morland	Breweries	
20	Amco Sec.	Industrial	
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Please take into account any minus signs.

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Jo Rice, of London SW7.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg.	Yld.	P/E
1	100	100	Bank of England	100			
2	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100			
3	100	100	Bank of Ireland	100			
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BREWERIES

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg.	Yld.	P/E
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2	100	100	Beck's	100			
3	100	100	Carlsberg	100			
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5	100	100	Kaiser Brewery	100			
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A top class P.A. with sec. skills of 100/70 is needed by the Chief Exec of this company. This is a complete P.A. role and requires someone with energy, commitment and who is not afraid to take control and accept responsibility. Min. age 25. Salary £19,000.

Assistant
DESIGN/PRODUCTION

This is a position for someone with ambition, who has already moved on from secretarial and has developed their administrative and organisational skills. Assisting the M.D. of this successful company you will be allowed to put them to good use in this very varied and demanding role. Min age 25. Salary £17,000.

Call DeMun Recruitment Services.
071 436 5110

ANTIQUES

to £14,000 p.a.

Family run business, established 1946, selling Antique Furniture from exquisite SW3 showrooms, is looking for a Showroom Assistant cum Secretary. The ideal person should possess a genuine interest coupled with a strong desire and definite ability to acquire a substantial knowledge thus enabling them to assist with sales to Clients. Other duties comprise occasional typing, letters, invoices, some personal work and ad hoc administrative 'organising' tasks associated with events such as the Governor House Party. Age 40+ with no family commitments this role offers the opportunity to continue a career in the Antiques world. Salary up to £14,000 depending on age/experience plus 20 days holiday. Hours 9.30-6.00 (not flexibility essential). Normally Tuesday to Friday inc. plus approx. 12 Mondays out of 48.

Call Sue Doughty 071 281 2292
(Recruitment Consultant).

!!! START - UP !!!
£18,000 Plus neg

The charming MD of this International Trading Co is looking for a top PA/Sec with Office Mgr responsibilities.

As this is a start-up situation, you should be proactive, good at initiating systems, be exceptionally well-organised, very flexible and approachable.

Your role will be demanding and there is potential to expand your job. Banking/Finance/Commodity experience useful.

Skills: sh useful/60 Age: 24 - 35
Russian/Swedish useful

Call New On (071) 726 8401
ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultant

Richmond PA to £17,500

This renowned Management Consultancy committed to providing quality services is looking for an all round PA administrator to work for a charming Director & his team.

This is an organisational role for someone who thrives under pressure. Previous experience in a sales environment useful.

If you would like to know more and are over 25 & type 50 wpm please call

Linda Kirkland on 071 439 6021
HAZELL-STATION
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

Top Broadcaster
seeks Secretary/PA

Would suit mature and adaptable person who, in addition to first class secretarial skills, enjoys creating order out of potential chaos. An individual with several years' experience at a similar level is sought.

Salary by negotiation according to age and experience.

Please send your CV in confidence by the 10th January 1992 to:

Recruitment, A149,
Kilgusway Road, 20
Soho Square, London
W1A 1DS. Fax: 071
439 5744.

If there are any organisations to which your application should not be sent, please state this clearly in a separate covering letter.

Medical Secretary
Harley Street Surgeon
requires Secretary/PA
Medical Experience
Essential
Must have good
shorthand and WP
skills
Tel: 071 580 1481
No Agencies

EDUCATED SECRETARY
Required for a Japanese hotel
group. Responsible to the
General Manager. Fluent
Japanese is essential with a
knowledge of book keeping and
word processing. Starting salary
£13,500 neg. Please send CV to
071 439 1155.

WANTED - A CLONE
Due to ill health, I am seeking a
PA/Secretary to Chairman in
small, busy office. Over 40,
single, Savoy CV, and
photograph marked
'private and confidential'.
No Agencies Please
19 Paul Hill, SW1V 3LL.

WEST END AD
AGENCY
PA/OFFICE MANAGER
£14,000 p.a.
Bright, intelligent,
personable person with
plenty of initiative required
to run busy office, and act
as p.a. to partners. Must
have 5+ yrs experience. 55
w.p.m.
Contact:
Janice Thompson on
071 439 1155

A TOP PA
£20,000-44
You need have been in a senior
position in a large company, ideally
in a financial or legal field, and
must have a proven track record
in a similar role. If you are
well versed in all aspects of the
job and have a good working
relationship with your boss, we
would like to hear from you.
071 485 2111
Don Dick

EDUCATED SECRETARY
Required for a Japanese hotel
group. Responsible to the
General Manager. Fluent
Japanese is essential with a
knowledge of book keeping and
word processing. Starting salary
£13,500 neg. Please send CV to
071 439 1155.

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small, busy office. Over 40,
single, Savoy CV, and
photograph marked
'private and confidential'.
No Agencies Please
19 Paul Hill, SW1V 3LL.

January Jackpot

Three's Company
£18,000 + exc bens

Chief Executive, his deputy and the company secretary make up a thriving threesome in a successful, expanding City computer consultancy. Taste the international flavour as you deal with Europe and the States, fix travel itineraries, talk to clients and ensure everyone is in the right place at the right time. Fast skills (90/60) and impeccable organisational flair will confirm you as a welcome addition to the company. Basic European languages, particularly German, would be an advantage. Age 27-35. Please call Esther Marsden on 071-377 9919.

Senior Secretary
£17,000

A senior Director within a well respected city investment bank needs a polished professional PA. This is a busy, demanding position, but your Director will involve you utterly and give you every chance to learn. Your role will be to ensure the smooth running of his life, by managing his diary, travel arrangements and correspondence. Excellent organisational and communication skills are paramount, as are top speeds of 100/60. 'A' level education essential, financial or legal background very helpful. Please call Elizabeth Williamson on 071-377 9919.

West End Office:
Tel: 071-437 6032

Personnel
£15,000 + imm MS

Senior director and two personnel officers at an international firm of City brokers seek a highly organised secretary able to handle a myriad of responsibilities. As he is the director in charge of special projects, you will be dealing with board directors one minute and new graduates the next. Organise meetings, interviews and presentations - keeping an eye on all three diaries! This is a high profile role where the ability to prioritise will prove invaluable. Financial experience essential. Skills 80/60. Age 25-35. Please call Jacqueline Badenberg on 071-377 9919.

Success Ahead
£16,000

Only 30% typing in this interesting job working for a Senior Manager responsible for Strategic Planning. He is very successful and needs a professional, mature Senior Secretary to look after him. You will be organising meetings, slide presentations and travel, while using your diplomacy and tact to liaise at senior level. The benefits are excellent at this large well-known company where your future is guaranteed. Age 26-35. Skills: rusty shorthand, fast typing. Please call Lyzette Dawson on 071 437 6032.

Wimbledon
£15,000

Join the Eastern European marketing department of this well-known plc in superb offices near the station in Wimbledon. Working for two young executives in this fun and energetic company, you will be organising a lot of complicated travel arrangements involving visas and border passes, along with presentations and general secretarial work. This is a great opportunity to help start up this new department and join a safe and stable company. Age: 23-35. Skills: some shorthand/good typing. Please call Lynne Dawson on 071 437 6032.

Administrator/PA
£20,000 + Good Bens.

Make a career move in 1992 and work for the Managing Director of an international communications company. He is dynamic, cosmopolitan and frequently abroad, so you'll be in the hot seat! Duties will include daily contact with regional directors, research for business plans, attendance at management meetings (where you'll take minutes) and the setting up and running of computerised systems. Your initiative, tact and powers of organisation will be fully used. Good conversational French and computer literacy essential. Skills 100/50. Age 28-40. Please call Esther Marsden on 071-377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

City Office:
Tel: 071-377 9919

Senior PA/Sec.
to £18,000 - W1

Major international law firm seeks PA/Sec to Senior Partner. Major-based, your role will include diaries, travel arrangements, meetings with overseas lawyers etc. Stable professional background helpful. Accurate audio typing (60 wpm) essential. Age 25+. Please call 071-493 5787.

GORDON YATES
Recruitment Consultants

Bank on Success!
to £16,000 - EC2

Blue-chip investment bank seeks Senior Secretary to Executive Director with London and regional responsibility. Sound track record of major level experience (ideally in banking) required. Excellent skills (min 80/50) essential. Applicable WP desirable. Age 24+. Superb benefits inc mortgage subsidy. Please call today on 071-493 0712.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION
MERRYWEATHER

Sheer Luxury!
£10,500 + benefits

Charming opportunity to join a small team marketing the delights of one of the world's best-known hotels. Bright outgoing personality needed, along with a background in hotels or PR/advertising or similar. Accurate skills (80/50) essential. Second European language desirable. Excellent benefits inc. free lunch subsidised. Job closing on 10-15. Please call 071-400 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry
THE WORK SHOP

SECRETARY
TO
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR/NURSING
£15,500 pa

We currently have the above position at this prestigious private Hospital, to work for the Associate Executive Director/Nursing.

The successful applicant will have a proven high standard of Word Processing (Wordperfect 5.1)/Audio and shorthand. Essential personal factors include: excellent organisational and administrative skills, ability to manage a varied and busy workload, competence in assisting with the recruitment of medical staff, and the maintenance of an in-house medical rota system.

It is essential that the applicant can use their own initiative and demonstrate a pleasing and efficient approach to all aspects of their work, as well as a pleasant telephone manner, tact and diplomacy.

The hospital offers a generous benefits package along with excellent working conditions.

For an application form please telephone the Personnel Department on 071 586 5959 ext 2710/2706.

Humana Hospital Wellington
Wellington Place London NW8 9LENassau - City of London
PA to Director

The Bahamas and Bermuda are just two of the important investment centres for the multi-million pound oil giants and international leisure groups to which this charming director is an advisor. Based in London, with heavy emphasis on liaison with the Caribbean islands, you will be under pressure to organise and set up complex meetings and associated travel itineraries for his many and frequent trips abroad.

You will be in direct contact with clients and heavily involved in progressing deals. Working without supervision, much of the delegation from your boss will be from airports and hotels on the islands and you will, in fact, be running the show in his absence. The director is a demanding, hard and expects a high level of commitment. A liking for the American business culture would be an advantage as would City work experience.

Skills 90/60. Age 24-30.
Please call Marianne Hope on 071 872 8887.
Candidates currently registered will automatically be considered.

£15,500
+ M/S
+ overtime

MacBlain
Nash
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

The English Gardening
School
at The Chelsea Physic Garden

P.A./Secretary urgently required to assist Principal - organize her diary, answer queries from the public and help with the smooth running of many courses.

Candidates must have efficient telephone manner, rusty shorthand/audio and be able to remain calm despite pressure of small office and heavy workload. 'Returner' or mature person preferred, full or part-time commensurate family commitments with commensurate salary.

Non-smoking office.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
Fiona Townshend,
The English Gardening School,
at The Chelsea Physic Garden,
66 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HS
No agencies or telephone calls please.

Shortland Secretary to
organize two managers in a
fast moving Sales Department
based in Deptford.

You must have excellent
shorthand and typing as well
as good communication skills.
Knowledge of Office PCs
286 an advantage.
Please contact:
Euro Secretaries
Tel: 071-435 0718
Fax: 071-794 0249

ART WORLD
Calm and efficient secretary required for two busy directors
in the Creative Department of Spink & Son Ltd.
Applicants must have previous experience with excellent
shorthand/typing skills, be computer literate, a non-smoker
and willing to work in a hectic, shared office.
Salary modest, but above average for the art world.
Apply in writing only, with full c.v., to Miss Miranda
Clark, Spink & Son, 5 King Street, London SW1V 6QS

BANKING GROUP
EQUIPMENT LEASING - COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT

Capital Charter plc, a subsidiary of The British Linen Bank, is an Equipment Leasing business specialising in transactions in the order of £1 million with major companies in the Private Sector, in the Public Sector and through purpose-made Joint Ventures with capital equipment manufacturers.

The newcomer will be a focal point in the Company's Sales and Marketing effort and will become closely involved with the development of the computerised prospect database, the creation of targeted direct mail projects and their following-up.

The position calls for an individual in his or her early twenties with not just good secretarial skills and organisational flair, but, if not a Marketing qualification, then experience of the excitement and challenge of being in the front line in a commercial environment.

The remuneration package which will include a subsidised mortgage scheme, is what would be expected of a major banking group.

Please apply in writing to Debby Randall
Capital Charter plc
Bridge House, Bridge Street,
Staines, Middlesex TW18 4TW

CAPITAL
CHARTER

Exclusively for Secretaries

OFFICE SERVICES ASSISTANT £11,000
Superb opportunity to join large
upmarket corporation helping
with senior PA's and Board
Directors. Co-ordinate
corporate facilities,
boardroom meetings and office
maintenance. Excellent
benefits package \$900 and on
typing and computer literacy are
essential.
tel 071 491 0383

SHORTHAND SECRETARY £13,000
Lady Director of a retail
organisation - renowned
worldwide - requires a confident
& efficient secretary to help co-
ordinate the activities of its busy
UK Branches Head Office of 2
years' experience, shorthand
typing speeds 90/60 and an
excellent command of English.
will secure this challenging role.

PARTNER'S SEC £13,000
Established firm of property
development needs an efficient
shortland secretary with a
minimum of 2 years' experience
to assist Partner with a
demanding work schedule. The
working environment is
professional, and the position
offers variety and scope for
initiative.

MACKAY-PARKES
Mackay Personnel
Recruitment Consultants

70/71 New Bond St London W1 (Oxford St end)

Administrator/Secretary
Chiswick c.£13,500 - £15,000

We are a small specialist consultancy which advises top UK businesses on personnel issues.

We are looking for a resourceful person to provide full and varied administrative and secretarial support to our consultants. Candidates should be of 'A' level standard and have good audio and WP skills, at least 2 years' office experience and excellent administrative skills.

Please send cv to Caroline Lyon, PERSONA, 22 Chiswick High Road, London W4 1TE.

PERSONA

First Job - City PR

As your first step on the secretarial ladder, you will join this large, go-ahead bank as a junior secretary assisting this dynamic City high-flyer who controls one of the Bank's most important PR functions.

Working alongside his PA (30), you will provide full secretarial support. Duties will also include constant liaison with the press and journalists, the promotion of his TV appearances and market commentaries - you will be groomed to handle everything. In addition to immaculate presentation and a strong personality (this is a

pressurised department), you should have a head for figures and be at ease with computers. You will be educated to GCSE 'A' level standard and have just finished secretarial college. Age 17-20. Please call Marianne Hope on 071 872 8887 to arrange an immediate interview.

£10,000
+ excellent perks

MacBlain
Nash
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Shortland Secretary to
organize two managers in a
fast moving Sales Department
based in Deptford.

You must have excellent
shorthand and typing as well
as good communication skills.
Knowledge of Office PCs
286 an advantage.
Please contact:
Euro Secretaries
Tel: 071-435 0718
Fax: 071-794 0249

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071-481 4481

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

071-481 9313
071-782 7828Maine - Tucker
Recruitment ConsultantsINTERNATIONALLY
FAMOUS

£10,500 + April Review + Free Lunch + mega perk!

Are you an international bright young thing? ... who could work for 2 European W1 companies who will turn one gracious hotel in the world to another. How about learning all there is to know about Marketing? Help your adventurous duo put on Roadshows... Events... Banquets in Europe! Yes, you will need to type (50 please) & you will need shorthand (80 please) but this is NOT one of those dull secretarial posts but a chance to bring your skills into shape for the future! If you already have at least 6 months' secretarial experience, are about 20 & really smart... your European Marketing Career starts here - any European language really useful.

18-21 Jersey Street London SW1Y 6HP Telephone: 071-734 7341

Maine - Tucker
Recruitment ConsultantsHAVE YOU JUST LOST
YOUR JOB?

£13,000 + Medical + Excellent Bonus

Are you feeling a bit down? ... Wondering with all this "Recession" if there's a special place to be found for you right now. Cheer up... take a deep breath... read on because, it could really be you, that this exciting new job needs as its secretary. Yes, the bad news is that you will be doing lots of typing (55 wpm) ... BUT the good news is there's little overtime, lots of socialising, the people are lovely, the offices beautiful & what's more you'll be working for a rock-solid W1 Company. So if you are 22 to 26, security & comfort are at the top of your list... please call us urgently.

18-21 Jersey Street London SW1Y 6HP Telephone: 071-734 7341

Maine - Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

SHOW BIZ ACCOUNTS...

Circa £16,000 + 9.30 am start + Perks

...this is not a secretarial job but a responsible Accounts Administration position. If you already know a Sales Ledger inside out & you can already Control with one hand and a calculator with the other (not typing) are your things... BUT most of all your wish is to work for an EXCITING, SECURE company with LOVELY people... read on! Nestling in the heart of Show Biz land are the people behind every major west-end hit show & you could be one of them! Are you between 25 & 35, like working on a team initiative & can you prove your prowess in Accounts? ... then call us fast about starting in this superb job.

18-21 Jersey Street London SW1Y 6HP Telephone: 071-734 7341

Maine - Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

"THE PLACE TO GO..."

£12,500 + 10am Start + Brill Perks

They come from the mountains of Switzerland, the Tuscan hills, the deserts of Arabia... to dance at this elite Chelsea Club. Can you help this young, very determined MD manage the PR side of things...? Can you plan both of your own days...? Create your own letters... bear to watch Neighbours at lunchtime? If you can type accurately (40+ - used minimally) and want a real one-off sort of job, as an Assistant (not a Secretary) and you know you are at your best when dealing with people... then this unusual challenge awaits. If you are about 22, free to start immediately and love arranging parties... this is it!

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Maine - Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

A Company's Voice...

Circa £13,000 + LV's + Medical

...is the first thing that any client will hear & so this really lovely, very smart W1 Company is looking for 2 special people to man their Monarch Switchboard. Switchboard experience is necessary but it's your attractive & well-spoken "voice" that really matters. Hours are flexible: either 8am to 4pm OR 10am to 6pm. If you think you can present a first-class image for this outstanding Company, we'd like to speak to you urgently!

18-21 Jersey Street London SW1Y 6HP Telephone: 071-734 7341

United Kingdom Central Council
for Nursing, Midwifery and Health VisitingADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TO THE CHAIRMAN

£14,440 - £15,507

The UKCC regulates the nursing, midwifery and health visiting professions. An opportunity exists for an Administrative Secretary to provide confidential and highly effective administrative and secretarial support to the Registrar and Chief Executive, the Chairman and their Administrator. Liaising with the professions and government departments at all levels is an integral part of this interesting and varied role.

The successful applicant will be well organised, have good presentational skills, be able to deal confidentially and sensitively with all business, staff and visitors and enjoy the demands of a busy office. Through a good general education and technical proficiency (typing 60 wpm) and shorthand skills are important, excellent diary management skills and an eye for detail are essential. He/she is likely to have had a minimum of three years secretarial experience.

Situated in modern offices near Oxford Circus, twenty three days paid leave, season ticket loan and subsidised staff restaurant.

For further information, a role description and an application form please call 071 637 7181 or write enclosing a full CV to the Personnel Department, UKCC, 23 Portland Place, London W1N 3AF.

The Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Personnel in Banking
Package £20,000 +

In this full and varied role your responsibilities will be split equally between providing a traditional secretarial service to the Director of recruitment and training whilst getting involved in day-to-day personnel activities as secretary to two personnel professionals. You will need excellent secretarial and administrative skills as well as a genuine ability to juggle priorities and use your initiative. Age: 28-32 Skills: 80/60

071-831 1220

RECRUITMENT
COMPANYSECRETARY/ASSISTANT
W1 - £12K PLUS

We are a successful Company running busy well-known Restaurants and Bars including Cafe Fish, Chez Gerard, Bertorelli's and Chumley Mary. This is an exceptional opening for a self-sufficient, professional secretary/receptionist. Good communication skills are essential together with a sense of humour and commitment. Varied duties to include full admin, and co-ordination of diaries. Excellent presentation and accurate skills (80/50) required, including WP. Friendly office in Soho. Please apply in writing with CV and Tel. Nos. to Deborah Jeffs, Groupe Chez Gerard, 37 Dean Street, London W1V 5AP (Fax: 071-287-5479).

MULTILINGUAL
SERVICES

GERMAN, SPANISH & FRENCH: Fascinating senior PA role in the media for a really experienced Trilingual Secretary (28+) with English shorthand. There is a strong emphasis on administration, telephone liaison and organising at Board level. Circa £15000

SPANISH: A Bilingual Secretary with fluent Spanish and mother tongue level English is required to help run a small City office. Lots of variety, constant liaison with Spain, administration, accounts etc. £15000

GERMAN: A major British law firm is looking for an experienced Bilingual Secretary, probably in mid-20s, to work for an English Partner. Absolutely perfect German, as you have to edit his, fluent English and fast audio-typing. Legal experience not vital. To £16000

071 836 3794

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HR

MAGAZINE
PUBLISHER'S
SECRETARY

£13,000 P.A.

I am the Publisher of BBC Clothes Show Magazine, M&S Magazine and URBAN and am currently searching for a secretary with several years experience to assist me in all areas of my work and provide full secretarial services. A high level of intelligence and common sense is essential as well as fast, accurate typing. Shorthand would be an advantage. You will be dealing with creative and sales departments and readers, so you must have a sympathetic, understanding nature whilst also being capable of dealing efficiently with the problems and queries that can arise from our readers and clients. Please send your CV to Keith George, Publisher, Redwood Publishing, 20-26 Brunswick Place, London N1 0DL

NO AGENCIES

SECRETARY - Victoria c.£15,000

To directors of a small firm of management consultants. Responsible varied work. Good organisational skills and Wordperfect 5.1 experience essential. Self-motivated, a bright, unflappable personality a must. Send cv to: Grosvenor, Vigilant House, 120 Witten Road, London SW1V 1JZ or Fax: 071 834 8908. Send daytime contact number. (NO AGENCIES)

071 836 3794

22 Charing Cross Road London WC2H 0HR

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THE TIMES - T7 283

6 rue Halley

75441 PARIS CEDEX 06, France

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PERSONNEL SECRETARY

£15,650

You don't need a personal background here, just proven senior level ability, excellent shorthand (80 wpm) and a versatile, perceptive approach. You'll be a linchpin for the personnel dept of this prestigious central London Co., involved with everything from typing offer letters to greeting applicants. Excellent conditions & benefits await a true professional. Call LORRAINE PEARCE, 071-606 0811

LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT
SERVICES LTD

GERMAN - bilingual Sec for lively team of Execs with Major Int Bank. Friendly environment with normal working hours. £18K + Perks.

ITALIAN - bilingual PA/Sec for G.M. of City Bank £18K + Bens. bilingual Sec/Asst for Personnel Dept of City Bank. Fluent Italian sec. £14K + Bens.

TRILINGUAL - German/French Sec for Int Design Co. Lots of responsibility including Translations. Team spirit with ability to work under pressure. £15K Neg + Bens.

GERMAN/ITALIAN - trilingual Sec/Asst for prestigious Design Co. £15K Neg.

FRENCH - bilingual PA/Sec for Personnel Dir. or major Int. West based co. 5/11 hrs. £15.5K

54-62 REGENT STREET, LONDON W1R 5PJ
TEL: 071 287 0424 FAX: 071 437 4141

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

We are searching for an experienced secretary. We are the Singapore government agency responsible for facilitating European business interests and attracting talents to develop careers in Singapore. If you are over 28, energetic and able to work on your own initiative, have a pleasant manner, good administrative and organisational skills, enjoy dealing with people and are able to work under pressure, please write enclosing your CV and a photo to: Singapore Economic Dev Board, International House, World Trade Centre, 1 St Katharine's Way, London E1 9UN. Salary c.£15,000

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Yates needs titles to justify his bravado

Matthew Yates invites you to a party and, by the way, it will cost you £5 to get in. When Yates has a notion, he cares little what people might think of him. His friends were put to the test when he charged them a party entrance fee to help pay for his acclimatisation training for the Commonwealth Games.

In contrast to the way he races, Yates is never slow to come forward. In his first outing on the international circuit, he asked the meeting promoter the way to McDonald's because he did not like the free food. In the Brussels grand prix, irked at finding that he was down for the B 1,500 metres, he lined up for the A race without permission under the glare of worldwide television. "They just had to start the race," he said.

Critical of Steve Cram — "Why was he at the world championships? He shouldn't have been. He wasn't fit" — and Liz McColgan — "She's got a bad attitude; she should get on with her running and not say a thing" — Yates has the makings of a figure as controversial as Pirie, Bedford or Over. He just needs better results on the track.

Aged 22, he is moving fast in that direction. "Some of the things he says are outrageous, but whereas people used to laugh at him, they don't any more," Mike Yates, his father and coach, says.

The difference is that, in two years, he has risen from Britain's sixteenth-ranked 800 metres runner to No. 2 at 1,500 metres and tenth in the world. He was Britain's only middle-distance male to reach his final at the world

David Powell meets a young man who is not afraid to speak his mind as he prepares for his bid to become the middle-distance king of British athletics

championships in Tokyo, though no doubt Peter Elliott would have joined him had he not been injured. "Peter is No. 1, I would not argue with that at the moment," Yates said. "But next year I will."

He declines to play the diplomat over Olympic selection. "They should take me, there can't be any doubt about it; they know I am going to make the final," he said. "Nouredine Morceli? I don't think he is out of my league. I really don't."

Last year, Morceli took the world title and ran the fastest time, 3min 31.00sec, while Yates improved to 3min 34.00sec. He would have gone faster, father and son argue, had he not wasted his concentration on Cram. "Matthew has not been worried about Morceli, he's been watching Crammy," Mike said. "I would have run 3:33 if I hadn't been watching him."

Yates junior said. At least that explains Yates's infuriating tactics of staying way off the pace. The father-coach working relationship is not from the Coe school. "People sat in the stand have got as good a chance of winning the race the way you are running them because you are too far back," Mike Yates bellows across the living room. Which calls for a bit of Yates lip. "Basically, he comes up with these race

plans and they don't work." That refers to the time in Lausanne when, on father's advice, he tried to go with the pace and failed.

The road to the Olympics, in Yates's case, leads through the multi-storey car park at Basildon. Even a world-ranked athlete has to count on his local facilities and, without an indoor track to train on in winter, in the worst of the weather he heads for the cover and lighting of the car park when it is closed to traffic.

For the spindly figure with the Cram haircut, most of his competition these days is a chore. Not fun. "Not at international level, but it is at club level," he says. "You know that if you perform badly you might not be in the next meeting." Even his choice of Olympic analogy suggests toil and burden: "It's like an exam for a job. If you run well you are going to be set up to make money."

After he qualified for the final in Tokyo, his first reaction was not that he had succeeded where Cram had failed, but: "I can't go to Disney World now."

In his opinion, that was the gold medal quote of the year. "You've got to come out with the right lines," he said. "A lot of athletes are boring. I'm not." That much will be incontestable when he starts winning; and those days may be not far away.



High standards: Yates compensates for a lack of facilities by training among the lamp poles on the roof of a multi-storey car park

RUGBY LEAGUE

Record transfer fee gives false idea of club finance

By CHRIS IRVINE

MARTIN Offiah was no January sale bargain, never mind his reduced price tag. The world record deal that took him to Wigan was achieved only through the benevolence of half-a-dozen individuals associated with the club.

Without their assistance, it is doubtful whether Wigan could have raised the £440,000 for the game's most prized asset. The money left in the Central Park coffers from Norway, their main sponsors, and £250,000 from the sale last September of Ellery Hanley to Leeds, was some way short of the figure necessary to secure Offiah's move from Widnes.

While there was delight at his first appearance for the club on Sunday, there was more than a hint of irony in the comment of Maurice Lindsay, the Wigan chairman, as he reviewed gate receipts. "Only another £415,000 to go." In addition, there are Offiah's personal terms in the four-year deal, believed to work out in excess of £100,000 a year, plus win bonuses of £400 a game.

With this saga the Lancashire club in particular and the professional code in gen-

eral further give the false impression of a game awash with money. Even before the signing of Offiah, the 25-year-old wing, however, Wigan were burdened with large debts, partly due to the building of a £2 million stand.

"We're up to our neck now, but there's no way we couldn't have Offiah," Lindsay said. "Yes, it is a crazy price given the money that actually exists in the market place. Really it couldn't have come at a worse time. But people would never have forgiven us around here if he'd gone to Leeds."

With their new purchase, Wigan have priced themselves out of the big-money player market for some time, leaving Leeds as the only big spender remaining, although Hull's failed bid to recruit Scott Gibbs for £200,000 reveals their intentions not to be left behind. Despite still choking on the combined £600,000 for Hanley and John Gallagher, one injured the other struggling to convert to the league game, Leeds this week signed Craig Innes for £200,000.

Widnes now have money to spend, but also have a sizeable debt to service. The parlous state of the club's finances goes for the majority of the 36 league members. The likes of first division Swinton and Wakefield Trinity are hanging on only just to financial lifelines wearing increasingly thin.

Most are victims of a player contract system, which has seen clubs over-extend themselves. Several have reverted to match fees only to players. There are also renewed calls for a replacement of the transfer-fee system with a

sliding scale of set fees for players.

Lindsay, president of the Rugby Football League (RFL), says it is more vital than ever that the game broadens its appeal. "We've reached stage one through television and sponsorship, which will together bring in £17 million between now and the game's centenary year in 1995, but we have to go further by better establishing the game in centres such as London, Nottingham and Newcastle," he said.

"I accept that, Sheffield apart, we're not doing too well at present on this front." Attendances, among the leading clubs are improved, but David Howes, the RFL's spokesman, said that until clubs cut their cloth accordingly, and boosted income by commercial activities, the game could not expect to progress.

In the meantime, having got their man, Wigan must pick up one, preferably two, pieces of silverware this season. All Wigan, and the town's bankers, expect.



Gallagher: struggling

Exiles will plead for their men

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LONDON Irish are to send a deputation to Belfast today to plead directly their case for the release for Saturday's league match of the five players required for training with the national squad. They were arranging yesterday to meet Ken Reid, Ireland's team manager, to emphasise the importance to the club's future first division match against Rugby.

Team selection for Saturday has been deferred in the hope of a definitive answer by this evening, although Ciaran Fitzgerald, the national coach, was emphatic on Sunday that the party of 21 should attend training in Dublin this coming Saturday and Sunday.

The same situation could recur on March 14, against Nottingham, fellow first division strugglers, and Paddy Hughes, the London Irish spokesman, said: "We support Ireland utterly and we congratulate our players on their personal achievements and the fame they bring the club. But this has become a key game for London Irish; it is crucial for us if we are to maintain our status and it has to be in the interests of Irish rugby as a whole to maintain a presence in the English first division."

Martin Johnson, the Leicester lock, has been forced to withdraw from his first B international, in Spain on January 19, after suffering concussion in last Saturday's league match against London Irish. His replacement has yet to be named.

RUGBY UNION

Shortage of class makes it tough for Welsh selectors

By GERALD DAVIES

THE Welsh selectors have brought forward to this morning — and not tomorrow as intended — the announcement of their team to play Ireland in ten days' time.

It is a sign of these painful times that only three players can be certain they will receive the call — Iwan Evans (wing), Scott Gibbs (centre) and Emyr Lewis (flanker). Even Robert Jones, at scrum half, can no longer count on a confident nod well though he is playing. After all, Rupert Moon is a strong candidate and a personality with a capability of adapting to the international arena.

To be certain of only three, and to agonise over the other 12, reverses the requirement of an international team. The majority, by right, should brook no argument; discussion arises usually only over the remaining few.

Those other arguments

which have arisen among clubs as to the number of their representatives in the national squad and the division between east and west, or Gwent versus the rest, are unproductive. But such parochial squabbles merely confirm the dilemma over the shortage of obvious international class players.

Splitting hairs over the stand-off half position is the best-loved pastime of all. The curiosity is that Neil Jenkins, from Pontypridd, was discarded after accumulating invaluable five nations' championship experience last season. He played well in a spirited team. He is not, as yet, a world-beater of a kind which Wales, of course, likes to think it will always have in this position. But who on earth is of this calibre at the moment?

Jenkins has not shown himself to be a runner so far. This

is the minus point held against him, whereas, in other respects, he is well-suited. He has a good eye and a safe pair of hands. He is an astute kicker of the ball, in or out of the hand. He is a committed defender. And for his club he has shown, unlike any other stand-off half in Wales, apart from Turner, of Newport, that, at 20 years of age, he already has the confidence to control a game.

You begin to feel there is some wishful thinking going on which distracts attention. Wishing for something that does not exist. The kind of stand-off half Wales would like, and with which it has always been well blessed, is simply not around. Neither Colin Stephens nor Adrian Davies, the other contenders, have demonstrated themselves to be manifestly better equipped than Jenkins. Why change?

Scottish pack poses problems

By ALAN LORIMER

THE Scotland team to face England at Murrayfield a week on Saturday will be announced today and the likelihood is that it will contain at least two new caps. The most pressing problem is filling the void created by the retirement of John Jeffrey, but injuries to Derek Turnbull and Chris Gray have presented the selectors with further difficulties in reshaping the back-five of the pack.

There is a need to experiment before undertaking an important tour to Australia in May and June, but Sole and Burnell seem certain to be the

props. If bulk is the deciding factor, however, Ken Milne could return at hooker.

The problems begin in the second row. Andy Macdonald had a good match against Spain, but looked mediocre in the trial last Saturday, when Neil Edwards and Rob Scott furthered their cause. The likelihood is that Scotland will abandon trying to meet force with force and concentrate on mobility, with Doddie Weir packing down alongside Macdonald.

Rob Wainwright would be a useful asset either at No. 8 or on the flank. Derek White,

however, seems the probable choice at No. 8, and, if size is the criterion, Graham Marshall will be the other flanker.

Derek Stark's speed and improved positional sense make him a challenger for the left wing, where it has also been suggested the selectors might pick Scott Hastings, with the abrasive Ian Jardine at centre.

Peter Jones, the Gloucester prop, merits at least a place on the bench, but the selectors will have to choose carefully between Andy Nicol and Greig Oliver as replacement scrum half.

HOCKEY

St Albans to meet Doncaster

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ST ALBANS, who are attempting to win the Royal Bank national indoor club championship for the fifth consecutive year, have been drawn, against Doncaster when the final stages of the competition are played at Crystal Palace on January 31.

The draw for the quarter-finals brings Stourport and East Grinstead into contention for the second year in succession. Last year, East Grinstead won 4-3.

DRAW: Quarter-finals: Bedford Tigers (14.00pm), Harborne v Old Whitgifts (4.00pm), Stourport v East Grinstead (5.00pm), St Albans v Doncaster (6.00pm). Semi-finals: Harborne or Old Whitgifts v Stourport, or East Grinstead (7.00pm), Bedford Tigers or Bedford v St Albans or Doncaster (8.00pm). Final (8.30pm).

□ The Peroni South League agreed at its meeting on Monday to a merger with the Pizza Express London League at first XI level.

For the first year, 1992-3, there will be two premier leagues of 18 clubs each. From 1993-4 onwards, the top half of each premier league will merge to form one premier division of 20 teams. The initial merger of the existing 15 London League clubs with the South League will not include Cambridge University.

It was also agreed that Mid-Surrey, who recently withdrew from the London League, will join the South League next season.

□ Great Britain were beaten 4-0 by Pakistan on the first day of a four nations under-21 tournament at Lahore yesterday.

VOLLEYBALL

Malory close in on fifth championship

TEAM Mizuno Malory can virtually secure their fifth successive Royal Bank of Scotland English League championship within the next month (Roddy Macdonald writes). The unbeaten London club's next three matches are against three of their rivals — Reebok Liverpool City, Wessex and Milton Leeds.

Malory, four points clear at the top, defeated struggling Manchester United, 15-3, 15-5, 15-11, while their coach, Jefferson Williams, took the chance to watch both Liverpool and Leeds at the weekend in London. Leeds beat Aquila 15-6, 16-14, 15-6, but Liverpool had to work hard to overhaul Polonia Esling 15-12, 15-11, 9-15, 12-15, 15-12.

Under the senior coach, Ralph Hippolyte, Great Britain's junior squad, is playing a tournament in Bulgaria.

Arsenal should learn from Elway's example

By PETER BARNARD

SPORT ON TELEVISION
THE WEEK IN REVIEW

THERE is a weekend at this time of every year when I suffer a brief but disturbing outbreak of sporting schizophrenia. The mental symptoms include a tendency to confuse one shaped ball with another and the physical effects include a slight numbness in the index finger of the right hand from over-frequent zapping of the remote control between BBC1 and Channel 4.

The weekend just past was this year's example and the amount of discomfort was increased by spending part of Saturday night listening to water dripping into a bucket. I had thought that I must be imagining this last symptom, but the truth was more bizarre. The coincidence of the

American football play-offs and the FA Cup third round occurring over two days always leaves me more confused than enlightened. At one point on Saturday night, I had the overwhelming feeling that John Elway of the Denver Broncos was standing between Arsenal and a place in the fourth round.

What was actually standing between Arsenal and further progress was not, curiously, shown on the BBC's otherwise excellent Match of the Day. I have followed Arsenal since boy-

hood (an inherited failing, honest) but even my loyalty is severely strained by their present situation. Not their situation 16 points adrift of Leeds, or their non-interest in any of the cup competitions; these I can live with. Arsenal's attitude is what bemuses me. I can quite see that showing people getting yellow cards is not riveting television, but listening to the live second half commentary on Radio 2, it was clear to me that Arsenal's indiscipline was a large part of their undoing at Wrexham. They had three players booked — one of them, Winterburn, for throwing the ball away after being penalised for a foul throw.

This is a small but typical example of Arsenal's problem and we saw it briefly demonstrated on television

when Tony Adams ranted at the referee. Of course, Arsenal were unlucky (the deadly Thomas free kick should never have been awarded) but luck is a neutral element that events itself out. Jimmy Hill said on television that the result was a miscarriage of justice and Hill is a very good judge. The fact remains that Wrexham concentrated on winning the game, and won it, whereas Arsenal's concentration wandered, so they lost.

There is an atmosphere of mean-mindedness in the Arsenal squad reminiscent of the dreadful Leeds days under Don Revie and I was surprised to hear George Graham saying he had no complaint with the players, some of whom have their priorities wrong.

Elway has his right. The Denver quarterback led his side to victory with 16 seconds left on Saturday night in what was one of the finest demonstrations of running down the clock that I have witnessed.

Elway's coolness and tactical astuteness, his concentration on what mattered and his marginalisation of everything that did not was what had me confused between Mile High Stadium and the Racecourse Ground: an Elway-type player is exactly what the Arsenal midfield is crying out for.

Elway drove Denver the length of the field in the last two minutes, throwing the ball away to gain time and getting his team into field goal range at exactly the right moment: too late for

Houston to mount a counter-attack.

Mile High Stadium was too noisy for the sound of an erupting volcano, let alone a dripping bucket, to be heard. For this we had to go to Elland Road, from where Des Lynam introduced Match of the Day, the team having decamped to Leeds before the scheduled live match against Manchester United was called off. A waterlogged pitch? Make that a water-penetrated studio. But Lynam and Hill soldiered on, bringing us a recording of Aston Villa against Tottenham Hotspur which had less skill and incident than we might have expected from Leeds-Manchester, but just as much passion.

So who will make the Super Bowl? Not Arsenal.

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German
output
shows
strength

Ideals combine to keep Crewe on the rails

David Miller on Dario Gradi, the manager who has restored pride in an aspiring fourth division club

THE football annuals will record John Barnes's three goals for Liverpool in a seemingly unexceptional FA Cup third-round tie. Memory will dwell more on the shining example of the losers, Crewe Alexandra, who, in a word, a treat.

After many years playing and watching the game, I sometimes despair at the attitude of so many of our professional entertainers. Yet on Monday night here, remarkably, was a fourth division side attempting to play the lions of the masters of Europe at their own game. Of course, they failed, but how they tried.

"We are in the football

production business first, in the entertainment business second," Dario Gradi, Crewe's manager, says matter-of-factly. "This is the ninth season Gradi has been trying at Gresty Road, and succeeded. Monday's performance was proof of the first is that Crewe's operating annual budget rocks on a loss of between £100,000 and £150,000, and this is regularly made good by transfer fees.

Gradi's vocation is as a coach. Circumstances demand that he is a salesman. Being good at the first makes it easier at the second.

A stream of players have passed through his hands, acquired for little or nothing, then quietly taught the geometry of the game, and passed up the line for anything from £20,000 (Paul Rennie to Stoke City) to £375,000 (Rob Jones to Liverpool). Greyhound, Naylor and Edwards may shortly be added to the list.

Jones, who made the opening Liverpool goal for McManaman on Monday, is on a rising transfer fee per game, up to 40, and an international appearance, to a ceiling of £650,000. Both he and Rennie were trained.

Gradi's most celebrated successes are, of course, David Platt and Geoff Thomas, obtained on free transfers from Manchester United and Rochdale respectively, then remodelled and transferred to Aston Villa and Crystal Palace, subsequently becoming England internationals. Gradi is described in a recent interview with Howard Wilkinson: someone who is wanting, and happy to be, the best of junior coaches rather than a cup-winning hero.

There was a time when Gradi did want that. Coming out of international amateur football, as it then was, with Sutton in the late Sixties, he became a qualified FA coach, spent five years at Chelsea, one at Derby and three at Wimbledon. Appointed by Ron Noades as manager of a Crystal Palace side already doomed to relegation, he was unable to get immediate promotion, and paid the usual price. After a brief time with Orient, he joined Crewe.

Gradi is now director, intimately sharing the burden of responsibility for ensuring

the club's survival. Yet he has that true quality of a teacher, in sport or music, of deriving his satisfaction from seeing others improve. Football is riddled with, and damaged by, thousands of anonymous coaches wanting to become Napoleon.

Gradi finds his work with Crewe a mission; gaining promotion from the third division in 1989, staying only two seasons, first because of the obligation to sell, secondly by playing, probably, too sophisticated football where others kick and rush.

"It was a bit of a dump when I came here," he reflects in his tiny office. "It is a dump of a building, with no reputation on the field to come to the club. Now, I like to think we're respected locally, which they have achieved in each of the past four seasons. The match

with Liverpool was worth £60,000 from television alone. It is part of Gradi's integrity that he does not attempt to stand in the way of his players and any potential financial improvement for them.

"If there's a chance for them to get second division wages, an approach, we tell them," he says. "We won't sell to the third division, because that's where we're trying to get. We feel we have an obligation to our players, however." He smiles at the recollection that Wolverhampton Wanderers, when in the third division, offered £40,000 for Platt and Thomas together.

For all the buying and selling, Gradi sees himself as coach more than wheeler-dealer. With no family responsibilities, he is coaching seven days a week, including two evenings. The pre-match entertainment on Monday



Gradi: vocation found the encouragement of the town council, we can look forward to moving to a new stadium.

side the barriers, once from behind the umpire's desk and once performed a running backhand smash that carried him down the side of the table to the far side of the arena.

Later, however, Chen tired, losing to the English Open champion, Yu Shentong, and although Alan Cooke beat Yu, he too looked jaded in his slipped to a defeat in the last contest against Ding Song.

The England No. 1, Carl Prean, returned to last night's team, and in doing so he posed questions about what might have been had he been available to England for more than merely one of the previous matches.

These hopes were especially strong after Chen indulged in a spell of theatrical magic while winning the opening contest 21-16, 21-11 against Chen Hong-Yu. Three times he retrieved shots from out-

side the barriers, once from behind the umpire's desk and once performed a running backhand smash that carried him down the side of the table to the far side of the arena.

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FOOTBALL

Middlesbrough's chance to get among the prizes

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

MIDDLESBROUGH'S failure to win a top honour remains one of football's mysteries. Despite producing some of England's most attractive teams and participating in many memorable cup-ties, the Teesside trophy cabinet remains stubbornly empty.

Like so many before, this season promises to be different. The chase for a Premier League place still, in both importance and knockout competitions. Tonight, they travel to Peterborough United in the quarter-finals of the Rumbelows Cup, but, having been responsible for an FA Cup upset only last Saturday, Lennie Lawrence's side is only too aware of the potential pitfalls at London Road.

Less than 30 minutes after his side's stirring win against Manchester City, the Middlesbrough manager said: "The last thing we want is to become cup victims ourselves on Wednesday."

Peterborough wallow in

mid-table third division anonymity, but Lawrence is well aware that Chris Turner's team has already eliminated Wimbledon, Newcastle United, and, most surprisingly, Liverpool, from the competition.

As Lawrence said: "I have told my players that this could be a season which they remember for the rest of their lives, or one they will want to forget. How we do at Peterborough could help determine which it will be."

These Middlesbrough boys can play, and I mean really play, but the Peterborough game will also be about the character and commitment they showed against Manchester City.

Middlesbrough will be without their midfield player, Andy Pease, who is cup-tied, as is Andy Payton. Mark Proctor is also out after failing to recover from a knee injury that forced him to miss the FA Cup tie.

In stark contrast to Mid-

dlesbrough, Nottingham Forest have been surrounded by silverware in recent years, lifting the League Cup — of which Rumbelows is the latest sponsor — alone four times.

They travel to Selhurst Park for a match which will revive memories of recent skirmishes with Crystal Palace. Last season, Forest succumbed past in the FA Cup after two replays and two postponements, while this season, in the League, they drubbed Steve Coppell's team 5-1 at the City Ground.

Norwich City travel to Tottenham Hotspur for what, on paper anyway, promises to be the night's most attractive tie. The Bradford City player-manager, Frank Stapleton, has named the former Middlesbrough manager, Colin Todd, as his new assistant, succeeding Leighton James who left on Monday.

Millwall Lionesses will play the touring Australian Under-19 women's team at The Den this evening (7.30).



Despair of defeat: Michael Stich, above, the Wimbledon tennis champion, and Ivan Lendl, were both beaten in the first round of the New South Wales Open yesterday. Stich went down 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 to Todd Woodbridge, of Australia, and Lendl was beaten 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 by Richard Krajicek, of The Netherlands.

Stich, of Germany, the top seed, blamed

TABLE TENNIS

Chen proves to be entertaining

BY RICHARD EATON

CHEN Xinhua took a well-earned rest from the last match of the series against China at Bletchley Leisure Centre yesterday having won six of his 12 contests against his former compatriots and proved himself England's most effective player on the tour.

The Yorkshire-based player was also by far the most entertaining. Although England went 5-1 down in the series after losing 4-2 at Gateshead on Monday, they had gone 2-0 ahead early on in that match and had nursed hopes of their first victory since their success ten days ago in Bournemouth.

These hopes were especially strong after Chen indulged in a spell of theatrical magic while winning the opening contest 21-16, 21-11 against Chen Hong-Yu. Three times he retrieved shots from out-

side the barriers, once from behind the umpire's desk and once performed a running backhand smash that carried him down the side of the table to the far side of the arena.

Later, however, Chen tired, losing to the English Open champion, Yu Shentong, and although Alan Cooke beat Yu, he too looked jaded in his slipped to a defeat in the last contest against Ding Song.

The England No. 1, Carl Prean, returned to last night's team, and in doing so he posed questions about what might have been had he been available to England for more than merely one of the previous matches.

These hopes were especially strong after Chen indulged in a spell of theatrical magic while winning the opening contest 21-16, 21-11 against Chen Hong-Yu. Three times he retrieved shots from out-

RESULTS (English names first) Chen Xinhua vs Chen Hong-Yu, 21-16, 21-11; A Cooke vs Yu Shentong, 21-16, 21-11; O'Donnell beat Ding Song, 17-21, 21-12; Chen Xinhua lost to Yu Shentong, 19-21, 13-21; O'Donnell lost to Chen Hong-Yu, 18-21, 12-21; Cooke lost to Ding Song, 21-13, 14-21, 17-21. Match result: England 2, China 4.

Rivals are left in awe by magnificent AC Milan

OVERSEAS REVIEW BY PETER ROBINSON

IT WAS a performance that sent shudders through the Italian league and had players and spectators alike searching for superlatives. It also removed any doubts about which club is the best bet to win Serie A this season.

AC Milan's 5-0 thrashing of third-placed Napoli was as complete as it was ominous for the rest of Italy's elite. The Neapolitans had been expected to give the unbeaten league leaders a run for their money in the San Siro, but instead they were overrun.

From the moment Maldini gave them a second-minute lead, Milan were irresistible, the goals coming in a steady stream as Napoli's defence crumbled. Rijkaard scored the second, created by the superb van Basten, and Massaro added a third before half-time. Donadoni scored a brilliant fourth, and van Basten completed the rout ten minutes from the end.

All this without Gullit, a victim of flu on this day but back to his best this season. No wonder the sceptics were scathing about the title chances of second-placed Juventus after their dull 1-0 defeat of Parma.

The new year was welcomed, too, by David Platt and Berti. After 15 frustrated attempts they finally won a game, the 1-0 defeat of Cagliari lifting them off the bottom of the table. Soda scored the only goal of a predictably nervous afternoon.

Milan's magnificence offered a stark contrast to the growing unrest at the city's other club, Internazionale. Lorin Matthaus, FIFA's world player of the year and arguably the most complete player in the game, confirmed after the abandoned game at Cremonese that he wants to leave after being made a scapegoat for the side's mediocre showing this

season. "It's true," Matthaus said. "I have had enough."

Real Madrid have long been keen on securing the German captain's services, and last week admitted there are doubts about the future of their present star, Robert Prosinecki, the talented Yugoslav playmaker, who has undergone surgery after tearing a thigh muscle — for the fourth time this season — in training. Doctors are unsure whether he will play again, and Real are not the sort to wait and find out before replacing him. Bayern Munich are also chasing Matthaus's signature as they embark on a massive rebuilding programme.

It has been a bad start to 1992 for Real. At the weekend, they slipped to a 2-0 defeat at second-placed city rivals Atletico, their first loss of the season, which opened up, just a little, the Spanish championship race.

YACHTING

Williams to deputise in Fremantle

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

REG White, the former world champion sailor and Olympic gold medal winner, pulled out of the Tornado world championship in Fremantle, Australia, yesterday. He flew back to England four days before the series is due to begin because his father-in-law is seriously ill.

Dave Williams, the British national champion, is to take his place. Williams flew to Australia last night to join

White's colleague, Steve Ollie. The entry list for Britain's Olympic selection trials, which closed yesterday, includes some surprising names. Among the last-minute entries is Rodney Pattison, Britain's most successful Olympic sailor, who has teamed up with Jonathan Clark in his attempt to win a fourth medal in the Flying Dutchman class.

The Royal Yachting Associ-

ation also revealed that Chris Law has been joined by Gerry Richards in the Soling class. The Yugoslav formally withdrew their entry for the America's Cup yesterday after failing to raise the \$1 million sponsorship they needed to fit out their wooden boat and air freight it out to San Diego. Doubts have also been raised about the Russian Red Star challenge going ahead.

SKIING

Williams secure in slalom

BY A CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER yesterday rediscovered the winning touch on the second day at the English and Welsh University Ski Council championships in Les Arcs. Last year's champions returned to form in the men's slalom after a relatively disappointing third place in the giant slalom on Monday.

Their captain, Gareth Williams, one of the most promising skiers in England, after recovering from a bout of flu, dominated the two-legged event, winning in an overall time of 1min 12.05sec.

Max Crane Robinson, of Oxford, Monday's giant slalom champion, finished second in a time of 1min 17.39sec, and Adrian Bungay, of Southampton, was third in 1min 18.10sec.

Alice Manson led London to victory in the women's team giant slalom, beating her long-standing rival, Anna Lees Jones, of Cambridge, by under a second. However, the third place of Fiona Graham helped Oxford into second place ahead of Durham.

RESULTS: Men's giant slalom (combined times after two legs): 1. Manchester, 2min 45.81sec; 2. Oxford, 2min 54.34; 3. United Hospitals, 2min 58.40. Women's slalom (combined times): 1. London, 1min 13.67; 2. Oxford, 1min 18.22; 3. Durham, 1min 19.91.

IN BRIEF

Nelson's contest postponed

Johnny Nelson's world title bout against the International Boxing Federation champion, James Warring, in Paris on January 30 has been postponed because the American has suffered a knee injury in training. The contest is now expected to take place next month.

□ Derek Williams, the Commonwealth heavyweight champion, will meet Tim Anderson, of Orlando, at the Albert Hall on January 18 in his first bout under Frank Warren's promotional banner.

France unchanged

Rugby league: France have named an unchanged squad for the international against Great Britain at Perpignan on February 16.

□ The Bramley v Leeds Silk Cut Challenge Cup preliminary round game, due to be played at Elland Road next Wednesday, has now been provisionally rearranged for Bramley on Tuesday.

Change of venue

Skiing: A women's World Cup slalom, scheduled for Oberstaufen in Germany, will now take place in the Austrian resort of Hinterstoder, the International Ski Federation said yesterday.

REAL TENNIS

The Males keep their nerve to foil fightback

BY SALLY JONES

JAMES Male, the world jackets champion, and his father, David, won the Gatorade National Fathers and Sons championship at Leamington with the narrowest of victories over Andrew and John Page with both pairs holding a match point at 7-7.

The Pages led 5-1 and looked well in command but James Male's electrifying speed and retrieving skills, well backed up by his father's precise volleying, helped to level the match and despite a spirited fightback by John and Andrew Page, the Males were just too strong and consistent. During the event, the rising young Australian professional, Robert Fahey, nar-

rowly defeated the Leamington assistant professional, Mark Devine, in an exciting challenge match on which the spectators had wagered over £1,000.

Fahey and Devine, the most promising of the new generation of players, also met in the final of the British under-24 championship, which Fahey also won 6-4 in the third set. As usual, Devine started slowly but fought back from a set and a 3-1 deficit to extend his hard-hitting opponent.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: J and D Male vs C and P Devine, 6-2, 6-4; A and J Page vs B and M Fahey, 6-2, 6-4. Final: Males vs Pages, 9-7. Handicap final: R and T Hall vs J and D Fahey, 6-1. Gatorade professional challenge match: R Fahey (Auss) vs R Devine (GB), 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Egypt 0, Norway 0.
NEVILLE OWEN'S COMBINATION: Chelsea 4, Bolton 0.
B AND O SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Postponed: Clyde v Stirling Albion; Alloa v Queen's Park.
Late results on Monday:
FA CUP: Third round: Crewe Alexandra 0, Liverpool 4.
HPS LEAGUE: First division: Curzon Ashton 2, Rhyd 1.
OVENPAPER COMBINATION: Crystal Palace 1, Southampton 3, Luton 2, Norwich 2.
PONTING'S COMBINATION: Crystal Palace 1, Southampton 3, Luton 2, Norwich 2.
ALL-BRITAIN WELSH CUP: Fourth round replay: Kidderminster 1, Swanton 3.
OTHER MATCHES: Welling 1, Arsenal XI 2.

REAL TENNIS
ORATORY SCHOOL: Harry Last public school old boys championship qualifying event: First round: Tonbridge 1, C Haines and R Haines, 6-2, 6-0; C Haines (J) and M Carter (J) vs S Haines (J) and M Carter (J), 6-2, 6-0; S Haines (J) and M Carter (J) vs R Haines (J) and M Carter (J), 6-2, 6-0; C Haines (J) and M Carter (J) vs S Haines (J) and M Carter (J), 6-2, 6-0.
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 4, Winnipeg Jets 2; Toronto Maple Leafs 3, St Louis Blues 2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Hull Kingston Rovers 18, Swinton 6.

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta Hawks 105, Houston Rockets 97; Boston Celtics 110, Sacramento Kings 106; New Jersey Nets 105, Los Angeles Clippers 92; San Antonio Spurs 100, Detroit Pistons 90; Utah Jazz 124, Indiana Pacers 108.

DARTS
PRIMLEY GREEN: World championship: Second round: P Taylor (Eng) vs P Sheu (Den), 5-1; M Phillips (Wales) vs E Smeaton (Eng), 3-2; G Miller (Eng) vs R Anderson (Eng), 3-2; J Lowe (Eng) vs P Lin (US), 3-0.

TENNIS
SYDNEY: New South Wales open tournament: Men's singles: First round: T Woodbridge (Aus) vs M Stich (Ger), 4-6, 6-1, 6-1; A Kriekorian (US) vs G Pryor (Czech), 6-7, 6-4, 6-0; C Campese (N) vs J Tarrago (US), 6-7, 6-2, 7-5; T Muehle (Austria) vs D Doyle (Aus), 6-4, 6-2; J Fitzgerald (Aus) vs C Palmer (Fr), 6-7, 6-2, 7-6; C Bergstrom (Swe) vs A Chasnovich (US), 6-4, 6-0; R Krajicek (Neth) vs J Levent (CZ), 6-7, 6-3, 6-3; S Stachewski (Sov) vs P Bar (Ger), 6-3, 7-5; M Gustafsson (Swe) vs J Swenson (Swe), 6-4, 6-4.
Women's singles: First round: N Provis (AUS) vs F Labat (Arg), 1-6, 7-5, 6-1; P Farnick (US) vs S Rhee (US), 7-5, 6-4; M Bolger (Neth) vs P Shriver (US), 7-5, 6-2, 7-5; J Demongot (Fr) vs H Kestel (Can), 6-3, 7-6; C Cunningham (US) vs M Jaggard (Aus), 6-3, 6-0; G Fernandez (US) vs P Thom (Fr), 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; L Savchenko (Neth) vs M Wozniak (US), 6-3, 1-6, 7-5; R Zrubavich (CZ) vs C Woods (GB), 7-6, 6-4, 6-2; R McQuillen (Aus) vs A Miller (Aus), 6-1, 6-4; D Graham (US) vs H Chell (US), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; K Darte (Japan) vs N Zvevra (CZ), 7-5, 6-1. Second round: C Martinez (Sov) vs E Zardo (Swe), 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; J Wittinger (US) vs S Appelmans (Bel), 6-1, 6-3; L Mieski (Georgia) vs A Deschamps (Fr), 6-3, 6-4; A Frenkel (US) vs N Mene-Jagorcan (Neth), 7-6, 7-5, 7-6; A Sanchez-Vicario (Sov) vs A Simandova (CZ), 7-6, 6-3; S Hack (Ger) vs L Mieski (US), 6-3, 6-3; J Garman (US) vs A Kiyomura (Japan), 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

YACHTING
TAURANGA, New Zealand: ATP tournament: First round: C Minner (Arg) vs J Greenhalgh (NZ), 6-4, 6-2; L Lavell (Mex) vs C Sedace (Ger), 6-2, 6-3; J Elmgren (Neth) vs K Newson (CZ), 7-6, 7-5, 7-6; J Elmgren (Neth) vs R Furber (Ir), 7-6, 7-5; M Nagwe (Ger) vs W Fawcett (SA), 6-1, 6-1; C Matuska (Japan) vs P Farnham (Fr), 7-5, 7-6; A Volkov (CZ) vs P Rosset (Swe), 6-4, 6-3; M Washington (US) vs A Gomez (CZ), 6-3, 6-2; Fama (Arg) vs L Kostewski (Ger), 6-1, 6-7, 7-5.

YACHTING
TAURANGA, New Zealand: Flying Dutchman world championship: Sixth race: P Fawcett and S Bourdow (US), 0 Duple 2, J and J Bogen-Moller (Den), 3.0; L Doreste and M Domingo (Sov), 5.7; A F Malsaghi and J Miller (Can), 6.0; S M Nyberg and J Lones (Swe), 10.0; S A Schwarz and M Daniel (Ger), 11.7; Birones 8; G Aphor and J Lynn 12.0; O'Neill 1; Fawcett and Bourdow, 47.2; T and Banger (Fr), 48.0; Doreste and Domingo, 47.4; A Miller and Kerming, 50.7; S Bogen-Moller and Bogen-Moller, 50.6; M Jones and G Knowles (NZ), 51.0.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Organisers seeking Olympic boost

BY JANE WYATT

ANOTHER Paralympic year brings the chance for Britain's best sporting talents with disabilities to demonstrate to a wider audience that they are first and foremost athletes, and that their handicap is a marginal issue.

The challenge before the British Paralympic Association (BPA), apart from the minor consideration of raising £1 million to send 220 athletes to Barcelona, is to heighten the profile of these sportsmen and women by making the publicity machine that follows the Olympics, without being overwhelmed in the process.

The fact that the Games, as with Seoul in 1988, are being held in the same venues for both summer and winter events, is a help. The fact that

they follow the Olympics is not, as overload sets in and media interest fades.

Yet the squad of 13 men and one woman for the winter event, in Albertville and Tignes between March 25 and April 1, is crammed with potential medal winners.

Peter Young, from Dagenham, is one of the top three blind Nordic and biathlon skiers in the world, and Matt Stockford, using his newly-developed ski bob, is a gold medal prospect for the downhill and super giant slalom, along with Richard Burt, who won four golds in last year's Swiss championships.

Great Britain returned from Seoul with 182 medals, 62 of them gold, and third place in the medals table. A huge total of 723 golds were

won overall, a ridiculous number that only served to deepen convictions outside sport for the disabled that anyone can win a medal at the Paralympics. For the Barcelona Games, which begin on September 3, the classification groups have been reorganised to prevent an event only having one or two competitors.

The BPA general secretary, Barry Schofield, has stressed that those going to Barcelona will have earned their places in the team. The final selection of the 70 members of the athletics squad will be made at Solihull this weekend.

This year also sees the first Olympic Games for people with a mental handicap, which will be staged in Madrid from September 13-20.

سورة الفاتحة

The fear of fixture congestion haunts Elland Road rivals

Leeds hope Chapman can maintain record

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE key to tonight's Rumbelows Cup fifth round tie, the second chapter in the story featuring Leeds United and Manchester United, may lie within the turf at Elland Road. The flooding at the weekend, which caused the FA Cup third round tie to be postponed, could well influence the outcome.

If the conditions are soft underfoot, that will favour Leeds and their style of play. Since they often use the aerial power of Lee Chapman to launch their attacks, they should not find themselves bogged down. Manchester United who prefer to advance at ground level, might.

Alex Ferguson, their manager, admitted as much yesterday. He was relieved that last Sunday's game was called off after persistent and torrential rain.

"With water on the pitch, I don't think that would have suited the way we play," he said. "Maybe Leeds would have been able to adapt better."

Chapman has scored in every round of the competition so far, but his contribution during the 1-1 draw ten days

ago was negligible. He was overshadowed throughout by Gary Pallister, who collected the man of the match award in spite of conceding the penalty which cost Manchester United two points.

That is the lone goal they have conceded in three visits to Elland Road since Leeds returned to the first division and that is not their only record under threat.

Not for 11 years have they lost either a cup tie or a League fixture against their rivals. In spite of an unforeseen rest of seven days, Ferguson will probably be unable to reinforce his side.

Bryan Robson, the captain, is still feeling twinges in a calf muscle and is not expected to be back in contention until the third chapter, the re-arranged FA Cup tie next Wednesday.

Although a final decision on the fitness of Denis Irwin is to be made today, he is more likely to return on Saturday for the game against Everton at Old Trafford. The break, though, has benefited several other players who were suffering from colds and allowed Ferguson to maintain an unchanged line-up.

Ryan Giggs and Andrei Kanchelskis, who missed the

QUARTER-FINALS

Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest
Leeds United v Manchester United
Peterborough United v Middlesbrough
Tottenham Hotspur v Norwich City
BETTING (William Hill): 3-1: Leeds, 100-30; Manchester United, 9-2; Tottenham Hotspur, 11-2; Nottingham Forest, 7-1; Crystal Palace, 8-1; Middlesbrough, 11-1; Norwich, 40-1; Peterborough.

calamitous defeat against Queen's Park Rangers on New Year's day will operate on the flanks. Their inclusion, with Lee Sharpe as a substitute, is as much of a defensive measure as an attacking ploy. They will occupy Leeds's creative full backs.

Ferguson dismissed the notion that the 4-1 loss against Rangers might be psychologically damaging. "That is in the past," he said. "We haven't even discussed it. I thought that we would have a setback at some time and that was it. I am sure we have got the character to respond in the right way. What adds spice to the Rumbelows Cup for us is that we have never won it."

Yet Leeds, unbeaten for three months and the leaders of the Barclays League first division, are sure to be the more optimistic. They are at

full strength, too, since the sciatica which was afflicting Gordon Strachan, their most influential and experienced character, has receded within the last week.

"We are better prepared now," Howard Wilkinson, their manager declared. "We've had longer to prepare. A week off to recover from the bumps and the bruises is a rare luxury for the players these days. We were disappointed when last Sunday's game was called off but it has had a useful spin-off."

Not so much for David Batty, though. On Monday he will be off on another abbreviated break. The naturally combative midfielder reached 21 disciplinary points when he was booked during the League game against Manchester United and will miss next week's FA Cup tie through suspension.

Wilkinson is naturally eager for tonight's tie to be "settled at the first attempt". The saga will already last a week longer than scheduled and the prospect of it being extended still further would not appeal to either club as they pursue the principal trophy, the championship.

Rumbelows preview, page 33

West Ham put Slater up for sale

WEST Ham United are ready to sell Stuart Slater, the £2.5 million-rated forward who is the club's most valuable asset, in an effort to secure their place in the Premier League next season.

Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, informed other first division clubs yesterday that he is ready to sell a number of West Ham's best players, with Slater, who has rejected a new contract at Upton Park, at the top of the list.

Bonds turned down a £2 million offer from Celtic for Slater at the start of the season, but the Glasgow club's interest has subsequently eased. Everton are the most likely bidders, offering Pat Nevin, the Scottish international winger, in part-exchange.

Howe agrees to take over as manager at Coventry

By CHRIS MOORE

DON Howe, the former England football coach, was confirmed yesterday as the new manager of Coventry City with full control of team affairs. Howe, aged 56, who has previously managed West Bromwich Albion, Arsenal and Queen's Park Rangers, succeeds Terry Butcher, who was dismissed on Monday.

"Don is a brilliant coach with a vast experience in the game," Peter Robins, the Coventry chairman, said when he announced the appointment. "He is very highly respected, and with him at the helm Coventry are in good and safe hands."

Howe, who has been given an 18-month contract, finds himself in the manager's chair only six weeks after his arrival at Highfield Road as chief coach, following the de-

parture of Mick Mills. When Robins dismissed Butcher on Monday, after the former England captain had declined to take a cut in his salary of £250,000, even though he could no longer fulfil the role of player-manager because of an injury, Howe was immediately invited to take over in a caretaker capacity.

Howe made it clear before his meeting with Robins yesterday that he would be interested in returning to management only on a full-time basis.

"I have enjoyed being back in the first division since coming to Coventry and have no qualms about taking over from Terry. But if things had not been the way I wanted, I would have shaken hands, said cheerily, wished them all

the best, and walked away." Ironically, Howe's first match in charge is against QPR at Highfield Road on Saturday.

He said he had been "surprised and disappointed" at the decision to dismiss Butcher. "I wish he was still here," he said, "but these things happen in football as I know only too well to my own cost. Tottenham Hotspur have brought forward their FA Cup third-round replay with Aston Villa by 24 hours to January 14, when it will be shown live on BSkyB. Nottingham Forest have put back their fourth-round tie against Hereford or Woking to Sunday, January 26, to avoid a clash with the match between Notts County and Blackburn Rovers."

A happy Crew, page 33

Hayes offered a free transfer from Celtic

MARTIN Hayes, the former Arsenal player signed by Celtic for £650,000 in June 1990, has been offered a free transfer by the Glasgow club, as has the winger, John Hewitt, a £225,000 signing from Aberdeen in 1989.

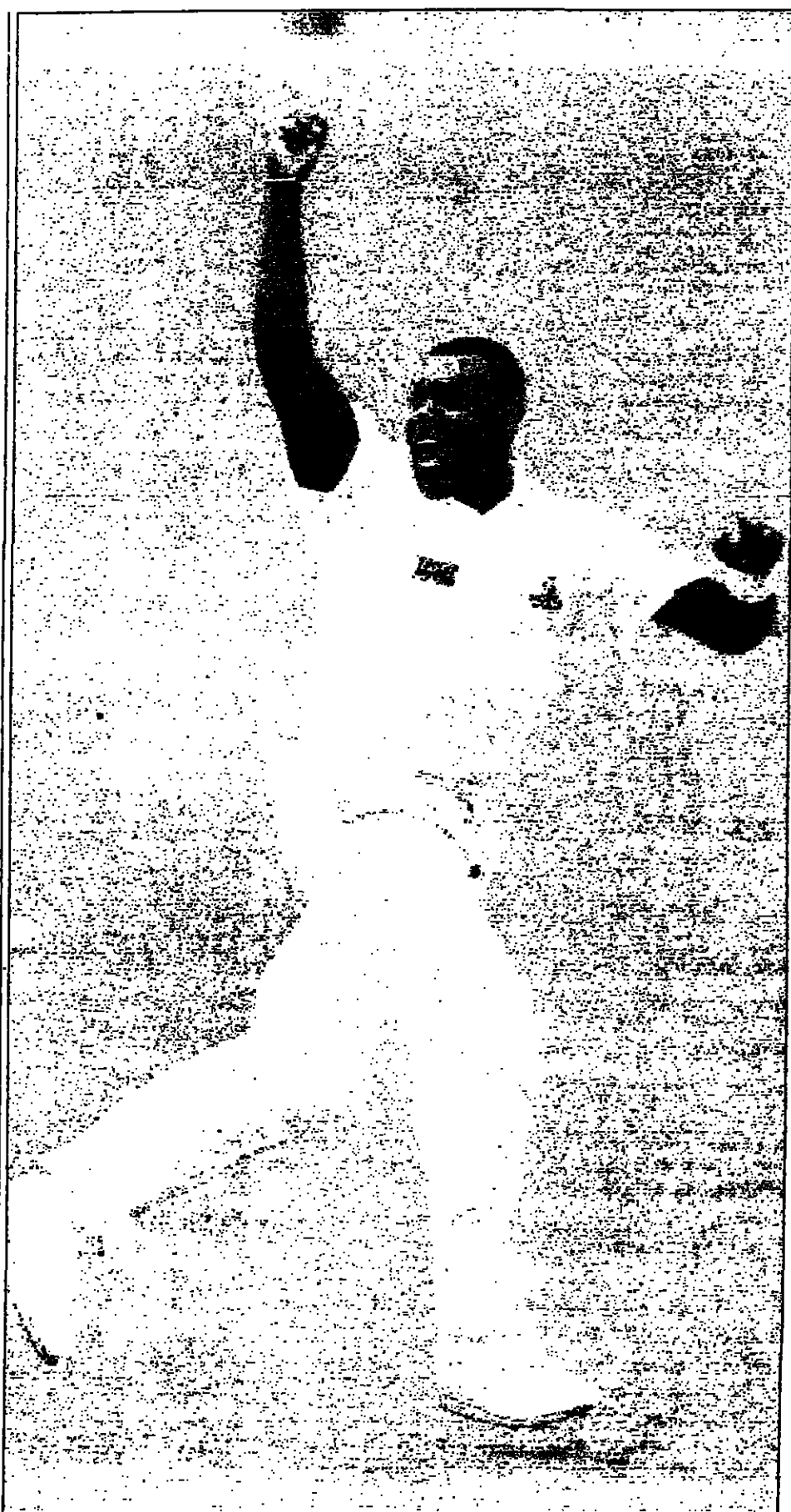
Hayes has still 18 months of his three-year contract to run and has not figured in Celtic's first team since Liam Brady replaced Billy McNeill as manager during the summer.

Hayes, who started only three games last season, has disappointed during his spell at Parkhead and recently spent a month on loan at Coventry City. The former

Highbury player is earning around £2,000 a week in the reserves and Brady would be happy to allow the player to leave on a free transfer in order to cut his wage bill.

"It's important that we look at exercises in cost-cutting and it gives Martin the opportunity to get himself fixed up with another club," Tommy Craig, Brady's assistant, said yesterday.

Aston Villa yesterday accepted an offer of £150,000 from their Midlands neighbours, Wolverhampton Wanderers, for Derek Mountfield, but the central defender, aged 29, has yet to agree personal terms.



Twist and shout: Lawrence celebrates one of five wickets yesterday as England's cricketers enjoyed another fine day in New Zealand. Report, page 32

Athletics gears up for future

A PROFESSIONAL structure to guide British athletics into the 21st century was presented in London yesterday. The sport's two key officers, Frank Dick and Andy Norman, will be given extra responsibilities in the structure, revamped by Malcolm Jones, the British Athletics Federation's chief executive.

Dick, the director of coaching, will be given the task of developing the sport at grass roots level, while Norman's duties as promotions officer are widened to increase his control of the competitive structure. The appointment of a new financial director is imminent and a marketing director is due to be taken on in the summer. British athletics will be boosted by a £1 million clothing contract with Nova, whose managing director is Brendan Foster.

Yates's bravado, page 30

Paris-to-Cape Town rally claims its third victim

GILLES Lalay, the French motorcyclist and former winner of the Paris-to-Dakar rally, was killed yesterday in the Congo during the thirteenth stage of the Paris-to-Cape Town rally. It was the third fatality of the three-week event; two Frenchmen died when their Land Rover overturned in central Libya 11 days ago.

Lalay, aged 29, died instantly when his Yamaha collided with a medical assistance car between Sibiti and Pointe Noire. "He was riding on the left towards the end of the stage when he collided head-on with a medical workers' vehicle," a rally spokesman said.

The accident happened about 400 kilometres into the 677-kilometre stage from Franceville to Pointe Noire, where the contestants will have their only rest day before boarding a ferry to southern Angola, where the rally resumes its trek to South Africa.

Lalay, who was seventh overall in the motorcycle category, won the Paris-to-Dakar in 1988 and was an experienced rider. Married with two children, he was a member of the Italian Yamaha-BYRD team.

Another French motorcyclist, Jean-Christophe Wagner, was reported to be critically injured when he fell from his Suzuki in a separate incident.

Max Mosley, the president of Fisa, motor racing's governing body, refused to condemn the rally when told of Lalay's death. "Our position as administrators is to ensure maximum security for the drivers, but we cannot forbid somebody from taking part in this sort of competition," he said.

Lalay: died instantly

In all, 29 people have died in rally-related accidents since the Paris-to-Dakar event began in 1979. This is the first year that its destination is South Africa rather than Senegal. The rally started in Paris on December 23 and is following a 7,700-mile route through ten African countries before ending on January 16.

Last week, a stage through Chad was cancelled because of fighting between government troops and rebels.

Results, page 33

Clubs seek a cure for growing pains

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

STUART Barnes, rubbing sore ribs with feeling, said at the weekend: "The game between Bath and Harlequins was harder than when I started playing international rugby." If the Bath stand-off half is taken at his word, then in eight years the intensity of English club rugby has changed out of all recognition.

The catalyst was the introduction of the Courage Clubs Championship. League rugby by created a new level of spectator interest and the World Cup has raised that level once more. You had only to be at the Stoop Memorial ground last Saturday, with spectators queuing just before kick-off where once club officials bid fair to outnumber the gate, to realise the combined impact and how ill-equipped many clubs are to deal with crowds of more

than 3,000 on a regular basis.

When Leicester, the best-supported club in the country, visited Nottingham for a league match, consideration was given to delaying the kick-off so that spectators queuing back down Ireland Avenue could be allowed in. Last weekend, with Leicester City playing an FA Cup tie 200 yards across the road, Leicester drew 6,743 for their meeting with London Irish, including some Crystal Palace supporters who were locked out of Filbert Street and decided to watch the rugby instead.

It is incumbent on not only England's first division clubs, but also on aspirants from the second division, to organise themselves to deal with such crowds regularly, which is easier said than done given the limitations of land and, more particularly, money. Colin Herdridge, the Harlequins secretary, esti-

mates that annual running costs are now in the region of £250,000 to £300,000 — and that for a club which has spent an additional £200,000 on improvements over the past five years.

"You have to be thinking of your club finding an extra £500,000 if you want to make a genuine development to buildings and, in today's climate, that is not easy," Herdridge said. "Most committees don't want to saddle themselves with large interest charges. If you do go down a division it could be disastrous, because your whole profile suffers in the eyes of sponsors, supporters, the media."

"We are better off than most London clubs because we have a 999-year lease and some space, with good car parking. But planning permission is not easy in the metropolitan open-area and we are trying to make what was originally an ath-

letics ground into a rugby arena. We can't cater for crowds over 3,000 in terms of comfortable accommodation with food and drink outlets. We don't want to be inhospitable, but the problem is the same for everyone, with the exception of Leicester, Gloucester and possibly Bristol."



Barnes: bruised

Leicester, on the other hand, could happily deal with Harlequins' record crowd at their Welford Road ground, which is the biggest in England outside Twickenham. But they are now benefiting from 12 years of prosperity, during which they have ploughed £1.25 million into their facilities, and nearly £400,000 more is to go into a training centre at Oadby, on the outskirts of the city.

"We have tried to be even-handed in developing all areas of the club," John Allen, the secretary, said. "You have to treat all of them, players, members, spectators, sponsors, as equal priorities." Leicester have nearly 7,500 members, compared with Harlequins' 1,600, and have recently written to the London club to advise them on how best to cope with "growing membership."

Leicester have long seen themselves as a centre of ex-

cellence for city and county, liaising with the county youth development officer, whereas clubs in the capital do not identify with a county area. But all leading clubs have the difficulty now of coping with football-sized crowds while trying to sustain rugby's open-house ethos: the social post-match atmosphere, comparative absence of policing and contact with players.

"We have to recognise that we have, if not a total social responsibility, then a responsibility to the game of rugby to see that its face, on and off the field, continues to be the friendly, family atmosphere where people can go into the clubhouse, have a beer and feel themselves part of the club," Herdridge said. That will be one of the game's many challenges of the 1990s.

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